Hafa Adai!

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Fund, Boston counsel in talks to slash firm's $750K fee. PAGE 3

OPINION METER
This week's poll:

Other than Tasi Tours, which has exclusive concessionaire rights to Managaha Island, should other marine sports operators be allowed to pick up customers on the island?

Let your voice be heard!
Go to
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to cast your vote.

INSIDE

BUSINESS

Microsoft posts its first quarterly loss in its 26 years as a public company. ➤ PAGE 13

GOOD HOUSEKEEPING

Outdoor spaces can add value to a home. But they take some planning, too. ➤ PAGE 19

LIFE & STYLE

Katie Holmes has decided what her next acting project will be: Broadway. ➤ PAGE 20

Manta Ray Band meets target

By MONETH G. DEPOSA
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REPORTER

» 46-member delegation London-bound

Members of the Saipan Southern High School Manta Ray Band heaved a big sigh of relief yesterday after finally meeting their funding target for their historic two-week journey to the 2012 London Olympics next week.

Musical director Will DeWitt, on behalf of the entire band and the school, expressed gratitude for the new donations they received this week that helped them reach their target of $250,000.

DeWitt disclosed that the Saipan and Northern Islands Legislative Delegation responded very generously and donated $10,000 to the band on Thursday with only one request—to "represent the CNMI with pride."

"We are very thankful for that gift and their continued support," DeWitt said.

The band also received donations from other donors this

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Chamber to DHS: Extend transition

By HAIDEE V. EUGENIO
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REPORTER

Brennan

Saipan Chamber of Commerce president Douglas Brennan formally asked U.S. Department of Homeland Security Secretary Janet Napolitano on Thursday to help convince the U.S. Department of Labor to extend by five years the federal immigration transition period in the CNMI, even as close to 12,000 foreign workers are still needed by private sector em-

See CHAMBER on Page 4

LEADERSHIP MEMORIAL

Against a backdrop of overcast skies, a bell and clock tower that is part of a $551,820 leadership memorial courtyard in Chalan Kanoa sticks out despite a temporary fence on site. The memorial courtyard's construction is now complete but has yet to be connected to existing power, water and sewer lines but its opening is still set for Sept. 26.

HAIDEE V. EUGENIO

Police: 14 dead in Colorado theater shooting

By THOMAS PEIPERT
ASSOCIATED PRESS WRITER

AURORA, Colo. (AP)—A gunman opened fire early Friday at a suburban Denver movie theater, leaving 14 people dead and at least 50 others injured, Aurora Police Chief Dan Oates said.

The violent and chaotic scene erupted about 12:30 a.m. MDT as a gunman stood at the front of one of the Century 16 theaters at the Aurora Mall where the latest Batman movie "The Dark Knight Rises" was playing, police said.

"Witnesses tell us he released some sort of canister. They heard a hissing sound and some gas emerged and the gunman opened fire," Oates said at a news conference.

Police, ambulances and emergency crews swarmed on the scene after frantic calls started flooding the 911 switchboard, officials said.

Officers found the gunman near a car behind the theater.

"A gas mask, rifle, handgun at least one additional weapon [were] found inside" he said.

The suspect was taken into custody,

See SHOOTING on Page 4

An Aurora Police Department detective takes a witness statement following a shooting Friday morning July 20, 2012. Aurora Police responded to the Century 16 movie theatre early Friday morning where police confirm at least 14 people are dead and 50 others injured. AP

Local

Castro named Kagman health center's interim CEO

By MONETH G. DEPOSA
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REPORTER

The Kagman Community Health Center board of directors, in collaboration with the Commonwealth Healthcare Corp. board, named Vince Castro as the interim chief executive officer of the Kagman health center at a recent meeting.

Corporation board chair Joaquin Torres disclosed to *Saipan Tribune* yesterday that Castro will join Dr. Daniel Lamar in preparing the new center's various projects until permanent individuals are selected for the positions.

Lamar was named the center's interim director for Medical Affairs.

From the initial plan to hire a chief financial officer for the center, Torres disclosed that the Kagman health center board is now looking at downgrading the CFO post to an accountant or accounting manager position. He said the corporation supports this and is willing to extend any help the new center may need in terms of financial management and assistance.

The CEO, DMA, and CFO are among the three key positions that need to be filled immediately in time for the center's target opening on Oct. 1.

According to Torres, all these positions will be announced at a later date and all decisions are up to the center's board.

The board is also thinking of scaling back the number of personnel that will be stationed at the center. It was initially announced that 14 personnel may be stationed there, their salaries paid from the corporation's account as its in-kind matching share for the project. The corporation is a co-applicant in the grant award that funded the new center.

Torres revealed that an organizational chart is now being finalized for the new center and the census for Kagman will dictate the number of the center's personnel. Despite the tedious bidding process, Torres said the project's schedule is on track.

The CNMI was recently awarded $608,333 in start up funds by the Health Resources and Services Administration to build the Kagman Community Health Center. The grant requires an in-kind match from the healthcare corporation such as staff and supplies.

In the initial phase of the project, two things that need to be accomplished are the renovation of the facility and the appointment of key staff. Under the grant agreement, the center has to be up and running within 120 days or on Oct. 1.

PRESENTATION FOR LAWMAKERS HAIDEE V. EUGENIO

Mike Hrapla of Matrix Design Group, center, addresses members of the Senate and House of Representatives Thursday afternoon on a draft study designating Saipan as "preferred Alternative 1" and Tinian as "preferred Alternative 2" for a U.S. Air Force airfield in the event that access to Guam's Andersen Air Force Base is limited or denied. Also in photo are Tom Linden, left, CNMI Military Integrated Management Council coordinator, and Celeste Boccieri-Werner, right, also from Matrix Design Group.

CAPITAL IMPROVEMENT PROGRAM – OFFICE OF THE GOVERNOR
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Caller Box 10007, Saipan, MP 96950
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INVITATION TO BID
ITB12-GOV-096

Renovation of Building "K", Northern Marianas College, As-Terlaje Hill, Saipan

Governor Benigno R. Fitial and Lt. Governor Eloy S. Inos, through the Capital Improvement Program (CIP) Office, are soliciting sealed bids for the Renovation work at NMC Campus located at As-Terlaje Hill, Saipan,Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands.

The project package will be available on July 25, 2012 at the Governor's CIP Office, Juan A. Sablan Administration Building on Capitol Hill. A non-refundable payment of $50.00 is required for each set. Payment must be made to the CNMI Treasurer and a receipt of payment must be presented when obtaining the Scope of Work at the CIP Office on Capitol Hill. All interested bidders are required to include an Insurer Clearance Certification (ICC) in their bid packages in order to bid on this project. The ICC should be obtained at the Department of Commerce, Office of the Insurance Commissioner (OIC) on Capitol Hill.

Bidding procedures shall be in full compliance with the CNMI Procurement Regulations, as revised through May 24, 2001. Public Law 15-95 Local Preference Act, as ammended by Public Law 15-118 does not apply to this Federally funded project. All wage rates for employees performing the work, labor and services on this project shall be paid at the current U.S. prevailing wage rates established for the Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands.

A MANDATORY one time site visit, pre-bid meeting will be held at the NMC Campus, Procurement Office Building L, on August 1, 2012. Interested companies who do not attend the mandatory pre-bid meeting will be disqualified from the bidding process. Participants are required to meet promptly at Building K at 2:00 p.m. Questions regarding this project must be submitted in writing to Ms. Elizabeth Balajadia, CIP Project Manager, CIP Office, Capitol Hill, Saipan or fax to (670) 664-2408 no later than 4:00 p.m. time, August 8, 2012.

Sealed bids must be marked "ITB12-GOV-096". For bidders within the CNMI, an original and two copies of sealed bids must be submitted to the Director of Procurement and Supply, Lower Base, Saipan, no later than 10:00 a.m. local time (ChST), August 27, 2012. Bidders located outside of the CNMI may obtain an additional seven (7) working days for receipt of their bids by submitting a Notice of Intent to Bid. Notices of Intent to Bid must be received by the Director of Procurement & Supply no later than 10:00 a.m. local time (ChST) August 27, 2012, and must be transmitted via facsimile to (670) 664-1515, or via e-mail to procurement@pticom.com. For bidders located outside the CNMI, an original and two copies of sealed bids must be postmarked by the U.S. Postal Service or the official government postal service of a foreign country no later than August 27, 2012 and must be received no later than September 3, 2012. Note that failure to submit the required number of copies may be cause for rejection of a bid.

Bids will be publicly opened and read at the Division of Procurement and Supply, Lower Base, Saipan, at 10:00 a.m. local time (ChST), September 4, 2012. However, if no notices of intent to bid are received from bidders outside the CNMI, bids will open at 10:30 a.m. local time (ChST), on August 27, 2012.

For bids greater than Twenty-Five Thousand Dollars ($25,000.00), a bid bond of fifteen percent (15 %) of the bid amount must accompany the bid. This security may be a Certified Check, Cashier's Check or Bid Bond. Checks must be made payable to the CNMI Treasurer, with the name of the bidder and a notation on the face of the check: "Credit Account No. 44660". Surety companies must hold a certificate of authority from the U.S. Secretary of the Treasury as an acceptable surety or other surety acceptable to the Attorney General.

The bidder submitting the lowest responsive bid will be subject to a responsibility determination in conformance with the CNMI Procurement Regulations Section 3-301. The responsible bidder submitting the lowest responsive bid will be awarded a contract with the CNMI Government and will be required to deliver Performance and Payment bonds, each equal to 100% of the contract price. The surety company providing the Performance and Payment bonds must be authorized to conduct business in the CNMI and possess unencumbered assets equal to the penal amount of each bond. Performance time for completion of this project is Two Hundred Seventy (270) calendar days upon issuance of Notice to Proceed. The daily amount of liquidated damages shall be greater of (i) Two Hundred Fifty dollars ($250.00), or (ii) two percent (2%) of the contract price divided by Two Hundred Seventy (270) calendar days, the contract time and will be accessed as delays beyond the established completion date.

All bid documents received shall become the sole property of the CNMI Government. The Government reserves the right to reject any or all bids and to waive any imperfection in a bid proposal that does not affect the elements of price, quantity, and delivery of the bid, in the best interest of the Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands.

PSS employees can now receive up to 480 hours of sick leave benefits

By MONETH G. DEPOSA
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REPORTER

Public School System employees can now avail of lengthier sick leave benefits after the State Board of Education approved Wednesday an increase in sick leave benefits from 160 hours to 480 per employee per annum.

The new sick leave donation policy entitles PSS employee to receive unused sick leave benefit of their peers for up to 480 hours per year. This is applicable to both certified and non-certified employees of the system.

Certified personnel include classroom teachers, instructors, administrators, and counselors. Non-certified staff consists of support staff or non-teaching positions.

Under the new policy, the education commissioner is granted the authority to create a universal sick leave pool to which employees may donate their sick leaves if a colleague is in need of long-term sick leave and has used all of their sick and annual leaves already.

Certified employees who have been contracted by PSS for a period of three months or more are eligible for sick leave with pay. They will accrue five days sick leave upon being hired every school year.

The sick leave shall have no cash value at any time and unused portions shall carry over from year to year. Employees working a 190-day per year schedule, like teacher aides, will also be given five days of sick leave per school year.

"The use of sick leave shall allow the employee to be paid at their usual rate while ill, injured, receiving a medical, dental, or optometry examination, or if his or her immediate family are under a doctor ordered quarantine. Sick leave will be allowed if the employee is able to provide satisfactory verification of the illness, injury, quarantine, or medical appointment," stated the policy, adding that doctors' note may be required by the employee's direct supervisor in their discretion prior to approving payment for the use of sick leave.

Meantime, non-certified employees who have been contracted by PSS for a period of three months or more are eligible for sick leave with pay. Sick leaves shall accrue at a rate of four hours per pay period. The policy states that sick leaves shall accrue in each pay period only so long as the employee works or is in paid leave status for all 10 weekdays of the pay period. Otherwise, there will be no accrual for that pay period.

New visa category for foreign retirees in CNMI pushed anew

By HAIDEE V. EUGENIO
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REPORTER

The U.S. Department of Homeland Security has yet to communicate to the CNMI whether it will study or at least consider creating a new visa category for foreign retirees in the CNMI, almost a year since Gov. Benigno R. Fitial and Delegate Gregorio Kilili Sablan (Ind-MP) brought up the issue in separate letters with DHS Secretary Janet Napolitano in August and September 2011.

Saipan Chamber of Commerce president Douglas Brennan is bringing this request once again to Napolitano's attention in Thursday's letter that also asks for a five-year extension of the federal immigration transition period.

Brennan said the creation of new visa categories in the CNMI for foreign retirees is a way to stimulate real estate transactions, create a broader customer base for products in the CNMI, and provide quality residents in the CNMI that already has strong ties with Japan, Korea, and other Asian countries.

He attached in his letter copies of the August 2011 letter from Fitial and September 2011 letter from Sablan, bringing the matter to DHS' attention.

"The SCC asks for your consideration in communicating with Governor Fitial about his Aug. 25, 2011, letter to DHS," Brennan told Napolitano.

Fitial is currently in Washington, D.C. but it's not immediately known whether his itinerary includes a meeting with Napolitano or any top DHS official on matters affecting the CNMI.

U.S. Public Law 110-229, the law that placed CNMI immigration under federal control, allows for the governors of the CNMI and/or Guam to request from the DHS secretary new visa categories under which the CNMI's plans and investments for retirement communities would still be viable under the new federal immigration authority, Fitial had told Napolitano.

He said many businesses and civic organizations have identified the Asian retiree market as a natural economic extension or progression, based upon current visitor demographics.

Sablan, in a September 2011 letter to the Chamber's Brennan, said he also wrote to Napolitano asking for a timetable for her response to Fitial's letter and encouraging her prompt consideration of the request.

Fund, Boston counsel in talks to slash law firm's $750K fee

By FERDIE DE LA TORRE
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REPORTER

The NMI Retirement Fund's Boston-based counsel disclosed that it is in talks with the Fund to reduce the law firm's $750,937.82 billing for legal services rendered.

Jeremy B. Coffey, one of the lawyers for the Boston-based Brown Rudnick law firm, informed the U.S. District Court for the NMI Bankruptcy Division on Thursday about their discussions with the Fund relating to compensation.

Coffey said the Fund, as a fiduciary, is keenly aware of the importance of monitoring and minimizing (where possible) administrative expenses of its estate.

In that regard, Coffey said, the Fund has raised with their law firm certain questions and concerns regarding the amounts sought for compensation and reimbursement for expenses.

Among the issues the Fund and Brown Rudnick law firm are discussing are those raised by other parties (including the CNMI government) who have filed objections or questions regarding the amounts being sought.

"The parties are engaged in good faith efforts to address such issues," Coffey said.

The lawyer said it is anticipated that those discussions will result in a "meaningful reduction" to the amount being sought.

He added that the parties will be in a position to announce a negotiated resolution, supported by the Fund, in advance of the July 27, 2012, hearing at which the final application for compensation will be considered by the court.

The Brown Rudnick law firm is claiming that the Fund owes it $704,293.50 as compensation for professional services and $46,644 as reimbursement for related expenses, for a total of $750,937.82.

The CNMI government, the Commonwealth Ports Authority, and two members of the Official Committee of Unsecured Creditors have raised objections to the amount, describing it as unreasonable.

The Office of the Attorney General asked the court to reduce Brown Rudnick's compensation and reimbursement by 85 percent—just $112,640.67 instead of $750,937.823.

Theft case vs former Ebisuya accountant dismissed

Superior Court Presiding Judge Robert C. Naraja has dismissed the criminal case filed against a former accountant of Ebisuya Restaurant who is accused of stealing company checks amounting to $2,076.59.

Naraja granted Maricel Celestino Gatdula's motion to dismiss the charge of theft and ordered that the $100 bail she posted be returned to her.

» Ebisuya owner also settles accountant's Labor complaint for $3,500

Island Supply International Inc., which owns Ebisuya Restaurant in Susupe, also settled Gatdula's complaint filed against the company with the CNMI Department of Labor.

Without admitting any liability, Island Supply International agreed to pay 34-year-old Gatdula $3,500 in settlement for her labor claims against the company.

According to court records, police arrested the accountant at Ebisuya on Aug. 1, 2011. Police said the defendant allegedly used company money to buy two cell phones and made the company pay for the monthly bills as well.

Ebisuya's owner, Yasuhiro Ueno, reported the alleged theft to the Department of Public Safety.

Police detective Melissa Bauleong stated in her report that Ueno gave police company checks and supporting documents indicating that Gatdula, without authorization, bought two cell phones in January 2010 under the company's name.

The detective said the documents also showed that Gatdula had also been using company money to pay for the phones' monthly bills.

Gatdula pleaded not guilty.

The court had set the matter for trial on June 28, 2012. Three days before the trial, assistant attorney general Margo Brown filed a motion to vacate the trial and asked to reschedule it, saying that Ueno was in Japan and unable to travel to the CNMI for the trial.

This prompted Gatdula's lawyer, Rosemond B. Santos to file a motion to dismiss the case with prejudice, saying that Brown failed to state a reason why the alleged victim, Ueno, is unable to travel to the CNMI for the trial.

Santos said that Gatdula has no prior criminal record and is the mother of a toddler born in the CNMI.

Citing the law, Santos said in all criminal prosecutions certain fundamental rights shall be obtained such as a defendant's right to a speedy and public trial.

Naraja agreed with Santos and dismissed the case. ***(Ferdie de la Torre)***

PROTEST RALLY HAIDEE V. EUGENIO
These two large banners at the Garapan Fishing Base Thursday afternoon pretty much wrap up the sentiments of marine sports operators on the Department of Public Lands' decision to prohibit them from picking up their customer tourists on Managaha Island.

Woman who beat up another gets 60-day sentence

A woman who, while drunk, entered a house in Koblerville and beat up a woman, was slapped with a 60-day prison term.

Lydia Omengkar, 36, pleaded guilty to assault and battery on Thursday afternoon as part of a plea deal.

Superior Court Associate Judge Joseph N. Camacho sentenced Omengkar to a year in prison with the first 60 days served without parole, and the remaining prison term is suspended.

Omengkar will be placed on probation for one year after completing the jail term.

Camacho granted Omengkar's request to start serving her sentence on Aug. 13, 2012 at 4pm.

Omengkar was required to pay a $250 fine, $100 probation fee plus court costs. She was ordered to perform 50 hours of community service.

Camacho prohibited her from possessing or consuming any alcoholic beverages during her probation.

The judge also barred her from entering any bar or other establishment whose primary purpose is the sale or consumption of alcoholic beverages.

As part of the plea deal, the court dismissed the remaining charges of assault and battery, criminal trespassing, and three counts of disturbing the peace.

Omengkar admitted that, on Jan. 29, 2012, while intoxicated, she entered the residence of David Santos, grabbed Sandaria Sebuu's hair and punched her mouth three times.

Assistant attorney general Darren Robinson told the court that Omengkar has no previous criminal history and that the victim suffered only minor injuries. ***(Ferdie de la Torre)***

DRAGON GARDEN DELICACIES

New Chinese restaurant opens in Garapan

Dragon Garden Delicacies is open daily at its location behind Duty Free Shoppers in Garapan next to Sisi Beauty Salon. FERDIE DE LA TORRE

By FERDIE DE LA TORRE
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REPORTER

Diners looking for quality Chinese restaurants on Saipan that offer mouth-watering food and quick service for any occasion have a new option: the Dragon Garden Delicacies in Garapan.

The new restaurant had its humble opening on Tuesday at its prime location behind Duty Free Shoppers in Garapan beside the Sisi Beauty Salon.

The menu at Dragon Garden Delicacies covers a wide range of Chinese specialties prepared by a seasoned chief cook and his assistants who all previously worked at the defunct Ming Palace and Gourmet Restaurant.

With eight round tables covered with gold-colored linens, Dragon Garden Delicacies is perfect for receptions and can accommodate 80 people.

"Our target market are local and tourist customers who love good, quality Chinese food," according to restaurant manager Annie Zhang. "Our goal is to provide quality delicacies."

Some of the popular food they offer are Hong Kong-style fried shrimps, deep fried pork ribs with garlic sauce, Peking duck, steamed egg-white seafood, sweet and sour fish, and deep fried scallops with pepper salt.

When asked why they opened the restaurant at a time when the economy is shaky, Zhang said that with many quality Chinese restaurants closing one after another, the island needs a new restaurant to fill the vacuum.

"We firmly believe that the economy has hit the bottom and there's nothing to go but up again," Zhang said.

The manager said their customers are guaranteed quality food, thanks to their seasoned cooks.

"We also have well experienced waitresses to provide good service. We have well experienced management to make sure customers are satisfied," said Zhang.

Most importantly, prices at Dragon Garden Delicacies are very affordable. The restaurant is open daily from 11am to 2pm and from 6pm to 10pm. Customers can call at 233-7888.

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Renter must be 21 yrs. & above with Drivers License. Security deposit of $200.00 for Cash payments.
Offer expires on July 31, 2012. Some restrictions apply.
Tel. No. 288-4400 /233-0111/235-6627/285-4405/888-6055

Fitial OKs over-the-cap salary of 2 AAGs

Before leaving for a two-week official trip to Washington, D.C. Gov. Benigno R. Fitial certified the over-the-cap salaries of two assistant attorneys general.

The governor granted his approval on July 9 to allow assistant attorneys general Rebecca J. Wrightson and Margo Brown to receive an annual salary of $52,000, which is above the $50,000 per annum salary cap.

The Salary Amendment Act of 1992 sets the salary ceiling for government employees at $50,000. However, the law gives the governor the authority to waive the ceiling, and submit a certification to the Legislature.

The governor is also mandated to advise the Civil Service Commission of any move to grant over-the-cap salaries.

Last month, Fitial also certified the over-the-cap salaries of four Commonwealth Healthcare Corp. doctors, each receiving anywhere between $130,000 and $200,000 per annum. ***(Haidee V. Eugenio)***

SHOW OF FORCE HAIDEE V. EUGENIO

Family members, employees, and supporters or marine sports operators converge in the waters off the Garapan Fishing Base on Thursday to show their support for a rally protesting the Department of Public Lands' decision to bar them from picking up their tourist customers from Managaha Island. A local judge has granted the marine sports operators' request for a temporary injunction against DPL that will prevent it from enforcing its new rule.

SHOOTING

From Page 1

but no name was released. Oates said there's no evidence of any other attackers. There was also no immediate word of any motive.

The suspect spoke of "possible explosives in his residence. We are dealing with that potential threat," Oates said, without providing details on where that was.

He said police also checked for explosives in the parking lot and theater, and secured those areas.

Witness Hayden Miller told KUSA-TV that he was inside Theater 16 and heard several shots.

"Like little explosions going on and shortly after that we heard people screaming," he told the station.

Hayden said at first he thought it was part of a louder movie next door. But then he saw "people hunched over leaving theater."

The police chief said 10 victims died at the theater and four at area hospitals.

Two people in critical condition were rushed to nearby Swedish Medical Center, spokeswoman Nicole Williams said.

She said emergency crews told her staff to prepare for several more patients from the shooting scene.

"We're on standby to receive," she said.

Aurora is located on the southeast outskirts of Denver, about 10 miles from downtown.

MANTA RAY

From Page 1

week, including IT&E, which donated $500 and many prizes for the bowlers who will attend the band's bowling tournament today and tomorrow at the Saipan Bowling Center in Oleai.

Pacific Development Inc. also gave the band $3,000 yesterday in the form of an educational tax credit donation and $3,500 from Board of Education members Herman T. Guerrero, Marylou Ada, and Galvin Deleon Guerrero.

Herman's Bakery also gave the group $2,000 this week and other groups and companies such as Bridge Capital, Marianas Resort, and Fil-Taga Golfers Association made separate donations.

"I am overjoyed and overwhelmed by the outpouring of generosity from so many individuals, organizations, and businesses! We want to make everyone proud next week!" DeWitt promised.

He said they made their final payments that were due in London yesterday and that all ground expenses for the group are now covered.

The band needed $250,000 to bring the entire 46-member delegation to London for the two-week trip. Band members have been busy doing fundraisers and concerts since last year to raise the cash.

The band will be performing in four different venues in London. These include a performance at the Westminster Abbey, Queen Elizabeth's Conference Center, at a torch ceremony in Central London, and the bonus show at the Olympic Park. The group is set to leave Monday, July 23.

The Olympic Games in London will feature 26 sports and has around 10,500 athletes from around the world.

The Manta Ray Band bagged the gold medal awards at the Tumon Bay Musical Festival in 2007 and 2008. In April last year, it won the silver award at an international competition in New York City. The Manta Ray Band has also performed at the Sydney Opera House in Australia.

CHAMBER

From Page 1

ployers to help run the tourism-based economy.

The transition period ends on Dec. 31, 2014.

Under the U.S. law that placed CNMI immigration under federal control, the foreign worker population should be zeroed out when the transition period ends.

The same law also provides that the U.S. Secretary of Labor will assess the CNMI's current and anticipated labor needs and determine whether an extension of up to five years is necessary to ensure an adequate number of workers will be available for businesses in the CNMI.

Brennan said the Chamber views the additional transition period as "absolutely necessary to prevent a collapse of our CNMI economy."

Gov. Benigno R. Fitial also wants an extension of the transition period beyond 2014.

It's not immediately known whether Fitial, who is currently in Washington, D.C. for a host of meetings, will be meeting with Napolitano or any DHS or U.S. Labor official to formally ask for an extension of the transition period.

Hundreds of CNMI employers have petitioned close to 12,000 foreign workers for a transitional Commonwealth-only worker permit.

Most of them have yet to be granted a CW-1 permit by DHS' U.S. Citizenship and Immigration Services.

'Not enough time'

Brennan said the initial five-year transition period, where 11,737 CW-1 visa applications have been received by USCIS for temporary foreign national employment within the CNMI only, "has been demonstrated as simply not enough time to phase out those 11,737 CW-1 visa foreign national employees by replacing them with U.S. citizens and/or residents by December 2014."

"There simply are not enough eligible, trained, and qualified U.S. residents available in the CNMI to replace those CW-1 visa holders by the end of 2014," Brennan told Napolitano.

The Saipan Chamber of Commerce is the largest business organizations in the CNMI with some 150 members.

"First, the [Chamber] would formally request that DHS voice its acquired knowledge with the U.S. Department of Labor, from its implementation of the provision establishing the CW-1 transitional period visa program in the Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands, in convincing U.S. DOL that an additional transition period of five years be immediately implemented," Brennan said at the beginning of his two-page letter.

Brennan, who is also the general manager of Microl Corp. and secretary of the Commonwealth Auto Dealers Association, said the CNMI tourism industry cannot survive without available and qualified human resources, and the islands have not totally adjusted to a consumer base decimated by the elimination of the garment industry three years ago.

The CNMI population has dropped 25 percent since 2005.

Brennan also said regardless of USCIS-issued H visas and other professional employment visas issued in the CNMI in the future, the CW-1 visa category established by the Consolidated Natural Resources Act for use within the established transitional period ending December 2014 "cannot justifiably be ended until there are people to replace the issued CW-1 visas."

Workers' groups

Two worker groups in the CNMI—United Workers Movement NMI and Dekada Movement—have not decided yet whether to support or not the request to have the transition period extended to 2019.

But Rene Reyes, founding president of the Marianas Advocates for Humanitarian Affairs Ltd., said he personally prefers no extension.

"I believe not extending the transition period after 2014 would force the U.S. government to give a permit much better than CW-1 or an improved immigration status to legal foreign workers in the CNMI. But I am also mindful of guest workers' situation if and when their CW-1 permit is not renewed by their current employers after 2014," Reyes told *Saipan Tribune* yesterday.

He said a possible compromise would be to extend the transition period by only three years instead of five "and use that three years as a study period as to what improved status could be given to legal foreign workers."

Rabby Syed, president of United Workers Movement-NMI, said while their group has yet to take a position on the issue, they remain consistent in their quest for improved immigration status and a pathway to U.S. citizenship for long-term nonresident workers in the CNMI.

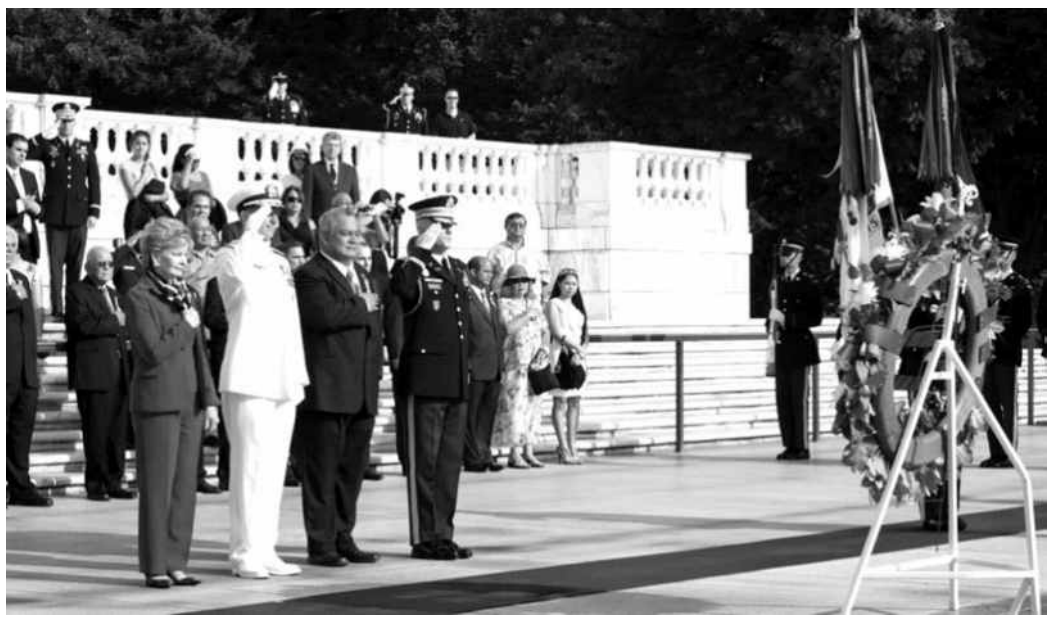
Liberation of Guam, Battle for NMI marked at Tomb of the Unknowns

WASHINGTON, D.C.—Delegate Madeleine Z. Bordallo (D-GU) recently joined Delegate Gregorio Kilili Camacho Sablan (Ind-MP) and Adm. Jonathan Greenert, Chief of Naval Operations, at a wreath laying ceremony to commemorate the 68th anniversary of the Liberation of Guam and the Battle for the Northern Mariana Islands. The ceremony was held at the Tomb of the Unknowns at Arlington National Cemetery in Arlington, Virginia.

Steve L. Muro, Undersecretary of Veterans Affairs for Memorial Affairs; Brig. Gen. Ben Blaz, USMC (ret.), former member of Congress; CNMI Gov. Benigno Fitial; Vice Adm. William D. French, commander, Navy Installations Command; Ambassador Mike Moore of New Zealand; Ambassador Asterio Takesy of the Federated States of Micronesia; Mayor Carol Tayama of Agat; Alyssa Charfauros, 2011 Liberation Queen from Guam; and other military representatives and members of the diplomatic corps were also in attendance.

"The annual wreath laying ceremony at the Tomb of the Unknowns honors the memory of the people of Guam who endured enemy occupation during World War II as well as the liberators who sacrificed on our behalf," said Bordallo. "This year, as we commemorate the 68th Anniversary of the Liberation of Guam, we should also remember all the brave men and women who fought to protect the freedoms we enjoy today.

"I thank Admiral Greenert for helping to commemorate this solemn event. Guam has had a long and storied history with the Navy, and I look forward to our continued work together on issues critical to the military realignments in the Pacific."



CONTRIBUTED PHOTO

Delegate Madeleine Z. Bordallo (D-GU), Adm. Jonathan Greenert, Chief of Naval Operations, and Delegate Gregorio Kilili C. Sablan (Ind-MP) lay a wreath at the Tomb of the Unknowns at Arlington National Cemetery to commemorate the 68th Anniversary of the Liberation of Guam and the Battle for the Northern Mariana Islands.

The wreath laying ceremony at the Tomb of Unknowns is one of several annual commemorative events in Washington, D.C. to honor the Chamorros in Guam who endured 32 months of enemy occupation during World War II, and the Marines, soldiers, sailors, Coast Guardsmen, and airmen who fought to liberate Guam and the Northern Marianas.

The Guam Society of America also hosted its annual reception in honor of the 68th anniversary of the Liberation of Guam and the Battle for the Northern Marianas in the Caucus Room of the historic Cannon House Office Building on Capitol Hill. Bordallo and Sablan are honorary hosts of this event. ***(PR)***

COMMUNITY BRIEFS

Making *paksiu* and *bayogu* dolls at Tinian Cultural Center

The Tinian Chamorro-Carolinian Cultural Center is offering free lessons to Chamorros and Carolinians on making *paksiu* and *bayogu* dolls this Saturday at the Tinian Senior Citizen Center Pavilion. The lessons will start at 9am. Bring your children so they, too, can learn the traditional ways of the Chamorros and Carolinians.

These activities are sponsored by the Association of Native Medicine and Culture, in partnership with the Tinian Community and Cultural Affairs Office, Tinian Mayor's Office, and the Indigenous Affairs Office (Saipan), and funded in part by the Administration for Native Americans. For more information, call 433-9220 and ask for Raymond Sablan. On Saipan call 322-0278. ***(PR)***

Air Force, Navy training on FDM, Warning Area 517

The U.S. Air Force will conduct training on the island of Farallon de Medinilla on July 23-27 from 8am to 12:59am.

The Navy will conduct training at Warning Area 517 on July 24-25 from 8am to 5pm.

The general public, especially fishermen, commercial pilots, and marine tour operators, are advised to stay clear from the area during the times and dates indicated.

The general location of the training on the island of Farallon de Medinilla training area will be on a 10 nautical mile radius on all quadrants.

W-517 is an irregular shaped polygon comprising of 14,000 nautical square miles of airspace that begins south of Guam and extends south-southwest in international waters. This will affect fishing in the vicinity of Santa Rosa Reef and Galvez Bank. ***(PR)***

Cleanup, Paint, and Beautify Day at MHS

On Saturday, Aug. 4, 2012, the Marianas High School Parent Teacher Association (PTA) will conduct a Cleanup, Paint, and Beautify Day at the MHS campus. The PTA invites all parents, students, teachers, and any other interested members of the community to meet at the MHS at 7:30am to help prepare the campus for the new school year. For more information, contact Bobbie Torres at 287-6463, Martin Dalsaso or John Davis at 237-3202/4. ***(PR)***

Free Army Reserve Enrichment Camp

The Army Reserve's Child, Youth and School Services will host a free Youth Enrichment Camp on July 23-27, 2012, at Marianas Trekking for children ages 4 to 12. For more information contact Travis Mckinney at (808) 438-1600 Ext. 3374 or email travis.mckinney@us.army.mil, or Chris Nelson at 323-8735. ***(PR)***

Commonwealth Utilities Corporation
JOB VACANCY ANNOUNCEMENTS

TRADES TECHNICIAN

Opening Date: Monday, July 16, 2012
Closing Date: Monday, July 30, 2012

JVA 12-022: Mechanic, Six (6) positions or more, depending on funding.
JVA 12-023: Electrician, Two (2) positions or more, depending on funding.
JVA 12-024: Operator, Four (4) positions or more, depending on funding.
JVA 12-025: Machinist, One (1) position or more, depending on funding
JVA 12-026: Welder, Two (2) positions or more, depending on funding.

LOCATION:
- Power Plant 4, Puerto Rico, Saipan, Northern Mariana Islands, USA.
- Lower Base, Saipan, Northern Mariana Islands, USA.
- Possible, temporary assignment to Power Plant, Songsong, Rota, Northern Mariana Islands, USA.
- Possible, temporary assignment to other sections of CUC throughout the Northern Mariana Islands, USA.
- However these positions are primarily for the power plants on Saipan, Northern Mariana Islands, USA.

SALARY: $17,282 to $25,059 per annum; un-classified; un-graded.

CONTRACT: Only if there are work authorization limitations. Otherwise, not contracted.

POSITION(S): See above.

DUTIES: Under the general supervision of the Deputy Director for Power or his/her designee. Provides direction to Trades Assistants to include assigning and monitoring tasks and providing direction. Performs journey level operations, maintenance and/or repairs in the service area assigned. Install new plant and equipment. Operate and maintain plant and equipment. Performs preventative maintenance in service area assigned. Maintains level of supplies and equipment. Positions assigned to Power Generation are also responsible for: Control room Operations and load dispatch. Monitor and balance generator and feeder loads.. Start up and synchronize generator sets. Monitoring lubrication oil and fuel consumption. Check and monitor engine oil and cooling water temperatures and pressures. Check and monitor bearing , exhaust gas and charge air temperatures. Record readings and report generator and feeder trips to plant management. Prepare switching programs and coordinate distribution line switching for plant and field staff. Monitoring loads on feeders and generators. Incinerating used oil and carry out SPCC plan routine work. Perform preventive maintenance and overhauls on plant and equipment. Troubleshoot and rectify faults on plant and equipment. Test and calibrate equipment. Condition monitoring and routine testing of generators, transformers and motors. Perform housekeeping duties. Performs other duties of a similar nature or level as required.

MINIMUM REQUIREMENTS: High School Diploma, General Education Diploma, or Adult School Diploma (through the Adult Basic Education Program) and four years of increasingly responsible, proven experience in the trade assigned. Knowledge of: Principles and procedures of service area assigned; Inspection and troubleshooting principles; Preventative maintenance principles; Inventory control principles; Basic mathematics. Skill in: Preparing cost and materials estimates; Performing preventative maintenance; Performing journey level maintenance and installations in assigned service area; Performing site inspections and recognizing problem areas; Communication, interpersonal skills as applied to interaction with coworkers, supervisor, the general public, etc. sufficient to exchange or convey information and to receive work direction.

Drop off your CUC Employment Application at the CUC Human Resource Office located on the 3rd Floor of the Joeten Dandan Building on Saipan. Otherwise, you may drop it off at the Tinian and Rota Admin. office.

CUC IS AN EQUAL OPPORTUNITY PROVIDER AND EMPLOYER
P.O. Box 501220, Saipan, MP 96950-1220 U.S.A. • Tel. Nos. (670) 235-7025 to 32 Fax (670) 235-5131

Commonwealth Utilities Corporation
JOB VACANCY ANNOUNCEMENTS

JVA No. 12-027

Opening Date: Monday, July 16, 2012
Closing Date: Monday, July 30, 2012

Safety Technician

Duties: Under the direct supervision of the Technical Manager for Oil or his/her designee. Assists in inspections to inform, enforce and regulate compliance and environmental issues; writes citations for corrective actions. Assists in responding to incidents and emergencies to ensure compliance with laws, rules and regulations; ensures customer is issues are addressed and proper procedures are followed. Drafts reports on accidents and incidents. Assists in conducting a wide variety of workshops and/or orientations. Positions are also responsible for: Assisting field workers with traffic safety; Ensuring proper protective equipment is being used; Transporting vehicle operators for drug or alcohol testing; Investigating property theft and personal injuries; Conducting safety orientations and workshops. Performs other duties of a similar nature or level as required.

LOCATION(S):
- Power Plant 4, Puerto Rico, Saipan, Northern Mariana Islands, USA.
- Lower Base, Saipan, Northern Mariana Islands, USA.
- Possible, temporary assignment to Power Plant, Songsong, Rota, Northern Mariana Islands, USA.
- Possible, temporary assignment to other sections of CUC throughout the Northern Mariana Islands, USA.
- However these positions are primarily for the Technical Manager of Oil Office on Saipan for the power plants on Saipan, Northern Mariana Islands, USA.

SALARY: $17,000.00 to $20,000.00 per annum; un-classified; un-graded.

CONTRACT: Only if there are work authorization limitations. Otherwise, not contracted.

POSITION(S): Two.

Minimum Requirements: High School diploma or General Education Diploma (GED) or Adult School diploma through the Adult Basic Education (ABE) program and two years of work experience. Knowledge of: OSHA and other applicable laws, rules and regulations; Investigation techniques; Safety procedures; Mitigation procedures. Skills in: Conducting inspections; Conducting investigations; Reading plans and specifications; Performing testing; Interpreting policies, procedures, rules and regulations; Preparing reports; Giving presentations; Conducting workshops; Using a two-way radios; Using computers and related software applications; Communication, interpersonal skills as applied to interaction with coworkers, supervisor, the general public, etc. sufficient to exchange or convey information and to receive work direction.

Applications may be picked up and dropped off at the Human Resource Office located on the 3rd Floor of the Joeten Dandan Building or the Tinian and Rota Administration Office.

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Opinion

Hafa Adai!
Saipan Tribune
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AP The Associated Press Pacific Islands News Association

EDITORIAL

Finding God, the particle

» A prelude to discoveries more shocking and profound

There is, we believe, a wraithlike presence throughout the universe that is keeping us from understanding the true nature of matter. It's as if something, or someone, wants to prevent us from attaining the ultimate knowledge. The invisible barrier that keeps us from knowing the truth is called the Higgs field. Its icy tentacles reach into every corner of the universe, and its scientific and philosophical implications raise large goose bumps on the skin of a physicist. The Higgs field works its black magic through—what else?—a particle. The particle goes by the name of the Higgs boson. ... The boson is so central to the state of physics today, so crucial to our final understanding of the structure of matter, yet so elusive, that I have given it a nickname: the God Particle.

—Leon Lederman, 1993, *The God Particle: If the Universe is the Answer, What is the Question?*

After almost five decades of sleuthing, physicists now have pinned the God Particle in their "Stuff That Makes the Universe" scrapbook.

The Higgs is an invisible field that fills the universe and gives elementary particles their size and mass. Imagine a vat of molasses, with the universe as the vat and the Higgs field as the molasses. Finding the Higgs boson is a quantum leap for science—the equivalent of a moonshot.

Even though the long-awaited bulletin came from Geneva, home of CERN's Large Hadron Collider, the discovery of the Higgs carries a strong Chicago imprint. The now-shuttered Tevatron accelerator at Fermilab in west suburban Batavia made breakthrough progress in subatomic particle research for years. Many scientists at Fermi collaborate on work at the LHC. And Leon Lederman, who provided the particle's deified nickname, is Fermilab's former director.

So, aside from some Nobel Prize action for Peter Higgs, who first published his theory in 1964, what does this mean to the rest of us on planet Earth? Do physicists now know everything there is to know about the universe—the Big Bang and all that?

Not quite. With the Higgs, scientists now have assembled—drum roll, please—5 percent of the puzzle that is the universe and how it works. That's a back-of-the-envelope calculation from California Institute of Technology theoretical physicist Sean Carroll.

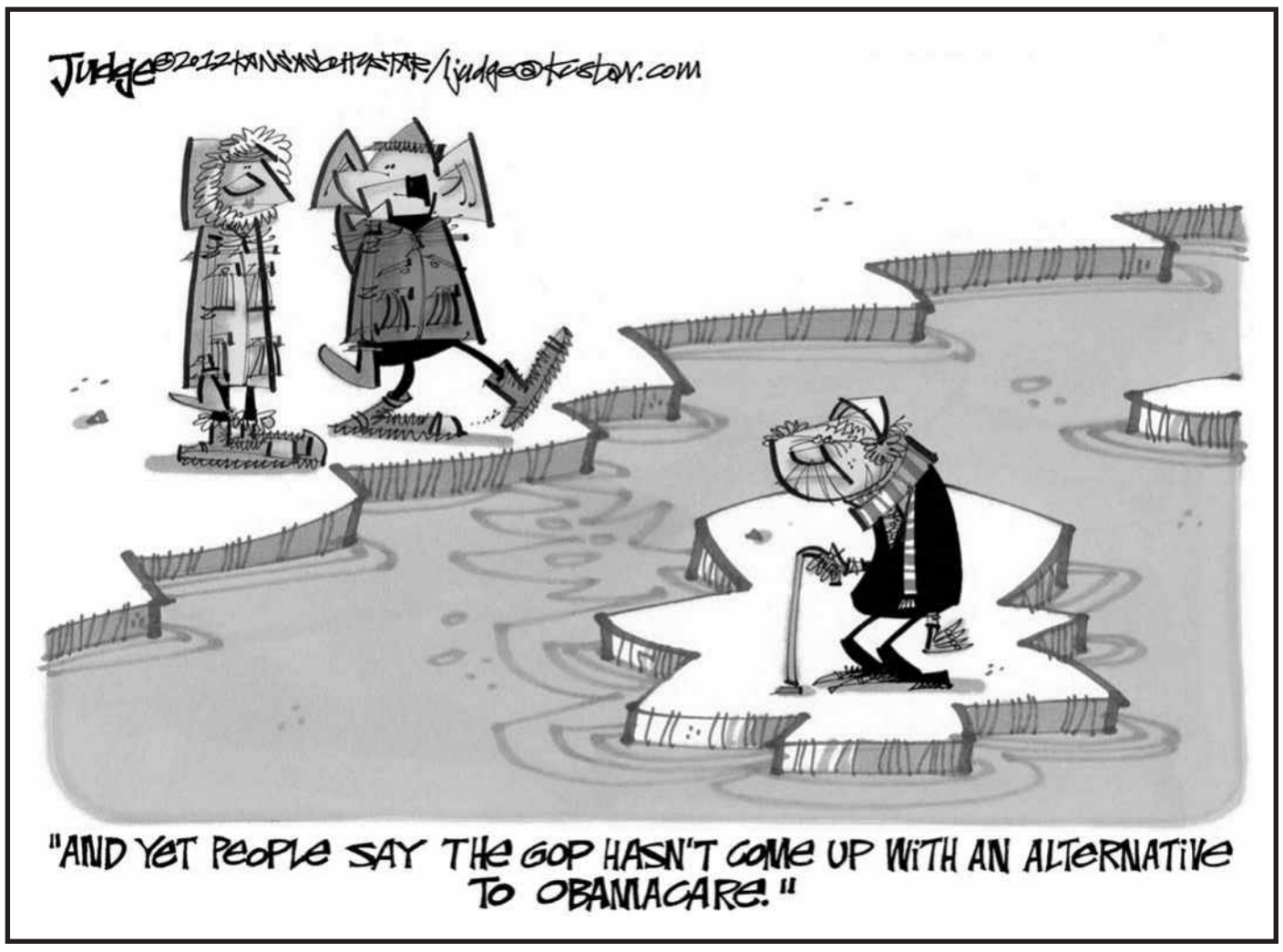
Physicists can now close the chapter on the everyday universe—the stuff we can see, touch and feel, Carroll told us. But there's still the matter of dark matter, dark energy and all sorts of other strange invisible stuff that fills the universe.

So one hunt concludes ... and many more continue.

The discovery of the Higgs "could lead to the discovery of unseen dimensions, parallel universes and possibly the 'strings' in string theory," Michio Kaku, a professor of theoretical physics at City University of New York, wrote in The Wall Street Journal. "In other words, the discovery of the Higgs is but the first step toward a much grander Theory of Everything."

Nothing like particle physics to make you feel dense, not to mention insignificant.

See GOD on Next Page



Mickey and Winnie

By JAIME VERGARA
Special to the Saipan Tribune

Jaime R. Vergara (jrvergarajr2031@aol.com) previously taught at San Vicente Elementary School on Saipan and is currently a guest lecturer at Shenyang Aerospace University in China.

Disney in the DPRK, the Democratic People's Republic of Korea *(Chosŏn'gŭl),* took center stage a couple of weeks ago in a public performance attended by NoKor President Kim Jung Un and an unidentified escort. The press typically focused on the escort, ignoring the significance of having two of America's preeminent anthropomorphic creatures on stage on what is still in U.S. foreign affairs' papers an evil and terrorist empire.

Mickey Mouse debuted in 1928 and we know that the late Walt Disney referred to the largest media conglomerate in the world (in terms of revenue) as "having all started with a mouse." Mickey remains Disney's undisputed mascot.

More reflective and sedate compared to the mouse's wild and wooly antics is Winnie the Pooh. Originally hyphenated as Winnie-Pooh, the other cartoon creature actually preceded Mickey by four years in publication.

Both are American cartoon characters of choice, with Mickey riding the hoods of truckers and car bumper stickers in the American south, while Winnie the Pooh inspires poems and books in universities from Russia to Australia. Either way, both are as American as motherhood and apple pie.

So what were they doing prancing around the stage in North Korea, entertaining no less than the sovereign head of a belligerent state and his unidentified escort in a high profile event?

Media's speculation focused on the escort, who could very well be both half-sister and paramour. Why not? Abraham and Sarah were half-siblings. The pharaoh's in Egypt were incestuous, so were Hawaiian, Balinese and Inuit royalties. Europe's royal houses had not been immune to kinship cohabitation, and clan incestuous relation is not unheard of among dynastic lines. If you think this is out of line, we can level the same charge against our mainstream media's speculations.

(BTW, South Korea named Kim's wife since 2009 as Hong, a PhD holder who bore the leader a daughter in 2010.They have been seen in public three times of late, first at the aforementioned entertainment event, then at the 18th death anniversary of grandpa Kim Il Sung, and third, while visiting a kindergarten where she wore a more feminine pink attire.)

Destabilizing regimes is an old tactic. In some of the peaceful protest gatherings in the '60s, it was not unusual to have a rowdy and loquacious participant in a crowd out to foment violent dissent, planted by authorities to cause trouble for organizers and their nonviolent actions.

The recent "retirement" of Vice Marshal Ri Yong Ho, Chief of the Korean People's Army General Staff, a member of the Presidium of the Politburo, as well as a Vice Chairman in the Central Military Commission, and all posts, is reportedly due to "illness." Erstwhile a military adviser to the young Kim, the "banishment" of the 69-year-old general is a recent example on how our press continuous to show dissension where it may not be present. In our passion for regime change, e.g., Syria, the repetition of speculations has proven to be an effective tactic.

Calling the dismissal of a prominent Presidium member like Ri in the DPKR might very well be appropriate and accurate but it is only one scenario among many. It is known that the young head of the Presidium has articulated a strategy that will move away from NoKor's "military first" national priority into a massive construction effort to stimulate the national economy. Replacing Marshall Ri by a civilian noted more for his political policy bent rather than military background is very telling.

But we would rather polish the alleged dissension within the ranks, illness as euphemism for getting deposed, rather than a possible shift in policy in a time of transition and great turning.

Still, Mickey Mouse and Winnie the Pooh remain as loveable characters that children of our enemies have embraced. I visited my young oral English student's daycare dwelling (his auntie's house) to take pictures of familiar scenes and objects to relate words to his vocabulary. Sitting right in the living room is the cuddly teddy bear. We are winning the hearts and minds of our "foes" without wasting a shot of lead.

Might not the presence of Mickey and Winnie in the heart of Kim Jung Un's entertainment lair be an indication of his party's willingness to appease our belligerent nature and let our mascots into their national consciousness? Mickey and Winnie seem to be doing a better job than Hillary's State Department!

Ralph Lauren just draped our Olympic athletes with chic and pleasantly designed berets and uniforms from China. It is just possible that we eschewed Savile Row for Champ Elyseé, and we all know that France's fashion catwalks outsource jobs to Hu Jintao's tailoring shops. I mean, have you tried wearing attire from the mills of the Piedmont, or the factories out of Wisconsin? Indiana cotton might be a preferred work cloth but if we want to look good in London, China silk beats the competition hands down.

Now, a word on Kim Jung Un's construction effort. Have you seen any of Juche (aka *Chuch'e,* self-reliance) Lego products lately? It looks like the Danes have a leg up on the competition. No edge for Halliburton on this one.

All quiet on the war front

By DOYLE MCMANUS
Los Angeles Times

Doyle McManus is a columnist for The Los Angeles Times. *Readers may send him email at doyle.mcmanus@latimes.com.*

Here's an important fact you haven't heard much about in the presidential campaign: The armed forces of the United States are at war in at least four countries, and that number could increase any day.

About 87,000 Americans are still fighting in Afghanistan, and some are likely to stay past 2014. We're at war in neighboring Pakistan too, mostly using unmanned drones but with a handful of people on the ground.

U.S. drone and special operations forces are also waging attacks in Yemen and Somalia, operations big enough that President Obama felt compelled to acknowledge them publicly last month in a letter to Congress.

In addition, the U.S. Navy is hunting pirates in the Indian Ocean and patrolling off Iran's coast in the Persian Gulf, and in both missions shots have been fired.

American troops are training and advising counter-terrorism forces in West Africa and the Philippines. More troops are on the ground in central Africa, helping local troops root out the brutal Lord's Resistance Army.

And those are just the missions we know about. U.S. special operations forces are engaged in "more than 100 countries worldwide," Adm. William H. McRaven of the Special Operations Command told the Senate last month. Most of those engagements don't involve actual combat, but because what McRaven's units do is secret, it's impossible to say exactly how many places U.S. forces are fighting in at any given time.

So why, when American troops are engaged in so many places, are the operations receiving so little public attention?

Some of the reasons for our national inattention are obvious. Americans, and the presidential candidates, are preoccupied with the travails of the domestic economy. And now that we have a professional, all-volunteer military, a narrower cross section of Americans has a family member in the armed forces.

But another reason we're hearing so little about U.S. combat operations is that we have two presidential candidates who don't seem all that comfortable with their own positions on war and peace.

In 2008, Obama could run as an antiwar candidate, but that's hard to do as commander in chief of a military engaged in combat—and one who dramatically increased drone strikes. The president has made a commitment to keep troops in Afghanistan through 2014, and he plans to keep advisors and trainers there even longer. But he has never seemed all that enthusiastic about putting American lives and money into defending Hamid Karzai's regime.

Moreover, he knows the Democratic voters he's relying on for reelection grew sick of the war long ago. A nationwide poll released by the Chicago Council on Global Affairs this week found that 67 percent of Americans think the war in Afghanistan is not worth fighting, and that number rises to 79 percent among Democrats. It's no wonder the president doesn't talk about it much, beyond noting that he's set a date for pulling out most of the troops.

Mitt Romney has an equally thorny dilemma. Unlike Democrats, Republicans are deeply divided over the war. The Chicago Council poll found that although 58 percent of Republicans say the war isn't worth fighting, 41 percent still think it's worthwhile.

That means that Romney has to tread lightly. As much as he'd like to criticize the president's handling of the war, finding the right grounds to do so has proved tricky. He criticized Obama's 2014 deadline for a troop drawdown, only to later call it "the right timetable." He has expressed support for the war effort in Afghanistan while at the same time saying that "we've learned that our troops shouldn't go off and try and fight a war of independence for another nation."

But with U.S. citizens engaged in seven or more conflicts around the world, don't both candidates owe us some plain talk about their plans? How many troops would they keep in Afghanistan after 2014, and how long would they keep them there? How would they deal with Pakistan, our most troublesome "frenemy"? If sanctions don't cause Iran to abandon its work on building a nuclear weapon, would they support military action there? And what about Syria?

Later this month, Romney plans to head to London, Israel, and Poland. While abroad, he should seize the opportunity to talk more about America's many armed conflicts and how he would handle them. And he should challenge Obama to explain his thoughts on military engagement too.

Judging from the current state of the campaign, both candidates seem as if they could use a change of subject. And so could we.

Many kids today see dishonesty as a crucial part of any path to success

By VICTOR DORFF
LOS ANGELES TIMES

Cheating was, is and probably always will be a fact of life. Recently, technology has provided new ways to cheat, but advanced electronics can't be blamed for our increasing willingness to tolerate it.

Once upon a time, being an honorable person included the notion that your word was your bond, and integrity was a crucial element in establishing a good reputation. At least, that was part of the narrative that made up our social compact. My teaching experience tells me, however, that lying and cheating are seen by a lot of kids today as a crucial part of any path to success. The only shame is in getting caught.

Students tell me that math is the easiest course in which to cheat because they can program calculators before a test and cheat undetected. An English teacher told me she no longer counts her vocabulary quizzes in her students' grades because she hasn't found a way to stop them from copying the answers. And our school's not-uncommon policy is basically to forgive a first offense and to enter it into the permanent record only if the student is caught again.

Compounding the problem is the fact that many students aren't fully aware of what constitutes cheating. While teaching at a university a few years ago, I was surprised when a student I had accused of plagiarizing by cutting and pasting text from a website denied having cheated. He indignantly argued that he would never cut and paste—he had retyped the entire thing.

A few weeks ago, a student took my final exam in the morning and gave the answers to someone who was taking it that afternoon. The second student didn't notice that the question on his test was slightly different, and the answer was now wrong. When confronted, he professed not to understand that he had cheated. He thought that getting a test answer from another student in advance was no different than studying with a partner. A few days later, when his mother came in to find out why her son had failed, she too said she couldn't understand the difference.

In a survey of students last month, I asked what they thought of the idea of requiring next semester's students to sign a pledge that said, simply, "I will not lie, cheat or steal." Most thought it was a great idea, but they didn't think the pledge would change anything.

As for the proposed penalties, they thought that giving an F on an assignment was OK, giving an F on the report card was acceptable but harsh and that putting the names of the cheaters on a public "wall of shame" would be going too far.

That implies that students put a value on their public reputation, so a wall of shame might be an effective threat. But the idea didn't fly any better with my colleagues than it did with my students. One compared it to cutting off the hands of a thief as a deterrent to crime. Another went so far as to say that it would be the same as taking the offending students outside and having the class throw things at them. Instead of focusing on the penalty for cheating, she said, we should be addressing the pressures that make students feel they need to cheat to succeed.

She has a point. It's easy to see how students these days end up feeling that cheating is an accepted part of success. They hear every day about people borrowing money they had no way of paying back, and banks falsifying forms to enable the borrowing, and Wall Street brokers knowingly selling worthless housing securities based on those loans. And no one was punished for that, except for those who happened to be holding the bag when someone noticed it was empty.

Today's vice president of the United States was caught having plagiarized his stump speech in the 1980s. At the time, many thought that would be the end of his political career, but in today's world, it's just one of those things.

Students, parents, teachers and administrators complain that there is too much cheating going on in our schools, but they tend to point at each other when asked who should be responsible for fixing the problem. That's not how change will happen—but something has to change.

Cheating needs to be addressed as part of a cultural problem. It is up to us to make it unacceptable not only in schools but also throughout society. Every time we accept it as unavoidable or tolerable, we help ensure that the culture of cheating is passed on to the next generation.

Victor Dorff, a former attorney and journalist, teaches math at Palisades Charter High School in California. He wrote this for the Los Angeles Times.

Unity? A rarity. Let's just hope for civility

By CATHY YOUNG
NEWSDAY

Last week, in a CBS News interview, President Barack Obama stated that the mistake of his first term was to focus on policy while forgetting that the president's job is also to "tell a story to the American people that gives them a sense of unity and purpose and optimism."

This brings to mind George W. Bush's famous statement that he was "a uniter, not a divider." Like Bush, Obama has been ridiculed by opponents as a hypocrite who claims to want unity while waging a nasty, divisive campaign.

But the problem goes deeper. In a free and diverse society, "unity" is a fantasy except in extreme and dire circumstances. We would be far better off with more realistic goals, such as compromise and a more civil variety of disagreement.

A sense of national unity and purpose is most likely in the face of an external threat. September 11 brought Americans together—but not for long. Obama may not be the greatest communicator, but even with brilliant rhetorical skills, it is doubtful that he could have unified a nation in which 47 percent of the popular vote went against him. In retrospect, many think of Ronald Reagan as a leader who inspired unity and purpose; but even this perception is partly nostalgic. Reagan's approval ratings while in office averaged 53 percent.

The genius of our political system is that it does not require unity to function. At the time of America's founding, it was commonly believed that a republic could be governed only through shared commitment to the common good, and "factions" representing selfish interests should be restrained. The founders saw the dangers of excessive factionalism, but also believed that factions could be harnessed for the common good by a system that balanced diverse interests.

Today, divisions are strong on many fundamental questions. On abortion and same-sex marriage, it's virtually a 50-50 split. On the health care reform law, some polls show an even split as well; others find about half favoring repeal, and just over 40 percent opposing it. On government, half say it should do more to solve problems, while slightly fewer say it is already doing too much that should be left to businesses and individuals.

There is an alarming tendency today to see the other half as evil or delusional. Liberals assail the rich and dismiss non-wealthy conservative voters as either dupes or bigots. Conservatives decry liberal "class warfare" but then warn of a coming war between "the makers" and "the takers"; the latter, according to one overheated article on FoxNews.com, comprise 48 percent of Americans and include anyone receiving any government benefits as well as public employees— presumably police officers and firefighters among them.

It's hard to say whether polarization is worse today than ever—or just seems that way because the Internet has given people unprecedented opportunities to express their views and confirm their biases. Either way, unity and common purpose are a long way off. The best we can strive for is less vitriol and more willingness to at least try to listen to the other side.

In his recent book "The Righteous Mind: Why Good People Are Divided by Politics and Religion," psychologist Jonathan Haidt offers a fascinating look at the moral foundations of conservative, liberal, and libertarian political viewpoints and the strengths and weaknesses of all three, urging Americans to understand each other better and recognize that good people are indeed found in each camp. That would be the most unifying message a politician could offer. We may never find a common purpose, but we could find better ways to accommodate our different purposes.

Cathy Young is a regular contributor to Reason *magazine and the website RealClearPolitics. This was written for* Newsday.

GOD

From Page 10

So why pay attention? We agree with novelist D.H. Lawrence, who wrote in a 1929 book of poems: "I like relativity and quantum theories because I don't understand them, and they make me feel as if space shifted about like a swan that can't settle, refusing to sit still and be measured; and as if the atom were an impulsive thing always changing its mind."

The universe, a swan that can't settle, is a little less inscrutable now. But its mysteries remain deep and daunting. Science chips away.

The most thrilling part of last week's discovery? A reminder that secrets still to be discovered are likely to be much more shocking and profound than anything we have learned so far.

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Satellite image and accompanying information are provided by the National Weather Service. For an updated weather forecast, visit the National Weather Service Guam Homepage: www.prh.noaa.gov/guam/

The Weather

5-Day Forecast for Saipan and Tinian

TODAY	SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY
Mostly cloudy with isolated showers and thunderstorms. East winds 5 to 10 mph.	Partly cloudy with isolated showers. Southeast winds 10 to 15 mph.	Partly cloudy with isolated showers.	Partly cloudy with isolated showers.	Partly cloudy with isolated showers.
▲87° ▼78°	▲88 ° ▼78°	▲88° ▼78°	▲88° ▼78°	▲88° ▼78°

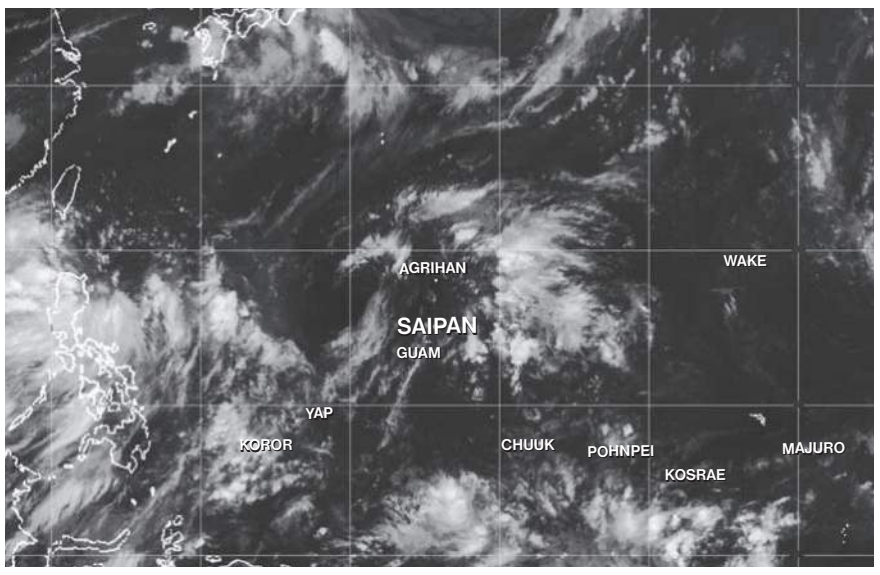
Micronesia

Guam and Rota	Thunderstorms	▲87	▼80
Palau	Thunderstorms	▲84	▼75
Yap	Showers	▲90	▼77
Chuuk	Showers	▲85	▼78
Pohnpei	Thunderstorms	▲87	▼76
Kosrae	Thunderstorms	▲87	▼76
Majuro	Mostly Cloudy	▲87	▼80

Around The Globe

Auckland	Rain	▲60	▼58
Beijing	Thunderstorms	▲88	▼74
Hong Kong	Thundershowers	▲91	▼83
Honolulu	Partly Cloudy	▲86	▼74
London	Partly Cloudy	▲70	▼54
Los Angeles	Sunny	▲83	▼66
Manila	Thundershowers	▲83	▼79
Melbourne	Partly Cloudy	▲61	▼39
Miami	Thundershowers	▲87	▼80
New York	Showers	▲81	▼65
Osaka	Thundershowers	▲86	▼75
Paris	Mostly Cloudy	▲72	▼54
Pusan	Mostly Sunny	▲80	▼73
Rome	Partly Cloudy	▲85	▼67
Salem	Sunny	▲80	▼55
San Francisco	Sunny	▲71	▼56
Seoul	Thunderstorms	▲82	▼73
Tokyo	Thundershowers	▲78	▼69
Washington, DC	Thundershowers	▲81	▼73

Yesterday's Satellite Image



PICTURE TIME: 1:00PM, FRIDAY, JULY 20, 2012

Western North Pacific between equator and 25N from 130E to 180.

A monsoon trough extends southeastward from near Luzon through 17N130E passing near Yap at 10N138E to end south of Pohnpei at EQ160E. Scattered showers and a few thunderstorms are occurring near the trough axis and near Koror west of a line from 18N133E to 13N135E to 5N137E and also south of the trough axis between the equator and 5N from 143E to 164E. An upper-level low is centered northwest of Guam at 18N140E. Scattered showers and isolated thunderstorms associated with the low are seen west of the Marianas within 120 miles of a line from 12N138E to 15N141E. A surface trough northwest of the northern CNMI extends northeast from 18N140E to 24N145E. Another trough east of Saipan curves east from 15N148E to 16N156E. Scattered showers and a few thunderstorms are found east of the Marianas within an area bounded by a line from 23N150E to 23N154E to 13N158E to 13N147 back to 23N150E and north of the CNMI within 150 miles of a line from 21N143E to 21N149E.

Tides

Saipan Harbor

4:13 AM	Today	Low Tide:	1.0 Feet
9:12 AM	Today	High Tide:	1.9 Feet
4:18 PM	Today	Low Tide:	0.2 Feet
11:00 PM	Today	High Tide:	2.0 Feet

Sunrise/Sunset

Today	5:56 AM	6:50 PM
Sunday	5:57 AM	6:50 PM
Monday	5:57 AM	6:50 PM
Tuesday	5:57 AM	6:50 PM
Wednesday	5:58 AM	6:49 PM

Moonrise/Moonset

Today	7:29 AM	8:13 PM
Sunday	8:22 AM	8:55 PM
Monday	9:16 AM	9:37 PM
Tuesday	10:10 AM	10:20 PM
Wednesday	11:06 AM	11:06 PM

GET YOUR PICTURES AND ANNOUNCEMENTS PUBLISHED—FOR FREE

The *Saipan Tribune* accepts for FREE publication the following:

PICTURES

- ISLAND SNAPSHOTS
  Birthdays, baptisms, christenings, family gatherings, reunions, club activities, and other community-related events.
- BIRTHDAY GREETINGS
  A way for families and friends to greet their loved ones, accompanied by a picture of the person celebrating his/her birthday.
- BUSINESS
  Corporate donations, volunteer work, promotions, granting of awards, team-building exercises, meetings and other activities by members of the business community.
- SAMU'T SARI
  Pictures from the islands' Filipino community, primarily focusing on Filipino activities, gatherings, get-togethers, volunteer work, etc.
- TRAVELOGUE
  Pictures of off-island travels. Contributors may submit up to 10 pictures for consideration.

ANNOUNCEMENTS

- COMMUNITY BRIEFS
  Announcements of upcoming activities of organizations, community clubs, government agencies, and private companies.
- CAMPUS BULLETIN
  Announcements of upcoming activities in public and private schools, as well as calendar of activities. May include PTSA meetings, enrollment procedures.

REQUIREMENTS

For pictures:

- Photos should be original and not copyrighted. Contributors must have the right to allow the *Saipan Tribune* to publish the pictures.
- Digital pictures should be high-resolution (minimum of 800kb).
- Must have complete details (who, what, where, when), the name of contact person, and phone number.
- Photos must have been taken in the last two months.
- For birthday greetings, must be submitted no later than 12 noon of the previous day to make it to next day's edition.

For announcements:

- Must have complete details (who, what, where, when), the name of contact person, and a phone number.
- Must be submitted no later than 12 noon to make it to next day's edition.

HOW TO SUBMIT

- E-mail: editor@saipantribune.com or jayvee_vallejera@saipantribune.com.
- Fax: (670) 235-3740
- Mail: PMB 34, P.O. Box 10001, Saipan, CNMI 96950
- Drop off: 2nd Floor, JP Center, Beach Road, Garapan, Saipan
  To check if contributions are received, call (670) 235-6397, 235-2440, 235-8747

POLICY

- The *Saipan Tribune* reserves the right to accept or reject a contribution for publication; the right to edit all contributions, the date of publication, size of the picture, and page placement; and the right to publish contributions in print, electronic, or other media formats.
- The *Saipan Tribune* will decide how often community announcements are going to be published.
- For Travelogue, the *Saipan Tribune* reserves the right to choose which pictures to publish.

NMI CRIME STOPPERS

Anonymous tips can now be submitted through the following:

- Call 234-7272 (PARA) on any telephone
- *11 on any PTI cellular phone
- Log on to the internet at www.nmicrimestoppers.com

NEWS DESK For news tips, corrections and requests for news coverage, call (670) 235-NEWS (6397), 235-2440, fax 235,3740. E-mail: editor@saipantribune.com. Website:www.saipantribune.com.

CUSTOMER SERVICE For inquiries, purchase of back issues and complaints, call (670) 235-8747, 235-2440, fax 235-3740.

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ADVERTISING For inquiries contact (670) 235-2769. E-mail: sales@saipantribune.com

FLIGHT SCHEDULE AS OF JULY 14, 2012

DEPARTURES

GUAM (GUM)-ROTA (ROP)

UA5062	2:40am	3:10am	1, 3, 5

SAIPAN-GUAM (GUM)

UA5070	4:35am	5:25am	2, 4, 6, 7
UA5062	4:50am	5:40am	1, 3, 5
UA5068	8:40am	9:30am	Daily
UA5074	11:30am	12:20pm	1, 4, 5, 7
UA5076	3:10pm	4:00pm	Daily
UA5078	6:50pm	7:40pm	Daily
UA5072	9:55pm	10:45pm	Daily

SAIPAN-NARITA (NRT)

DL287	6:05am	8:45am	Daily
DL285	6:30am	9:15am	1, 3, 5, 7
DL297	4:35pm	7:20pm	Daily

SAIPAN-OSAKA (KIX)

0Z606/120	2:20am	8:50pm	1 via ICN
0Z606/120	2:50am	8:50pm	2, 3, 4, 5, 6, 7 via ICN

SAIPAN-SEOUL (ICN)

0Z606	2:20am	6:00am	1
0Z606	2:50am	6:30am	2, 3, 4, 5, 6, 7
0Z604	3:30pm	6:55pm	Daily

SAIPAN-GUANZHOU (CAN)

3U8646	4:20am	7:30am	2, 6

SAIPAN-SHANGHAI (PVG)

3U8648	6:10am	8:40am	1, 4, 5, 7

SAIPAN-MANILA (MNL)

0Z606/701	2:20am	11:05am	1 via ICN
0Z606/701	2:50am	11:05am	2, 3, 4, 5, 6, 7 via ICN
UA5070/191	4:35am	9:55am	3, 6 via GUM
DL287/173	6:05am	10:00pm	Daily via NRT
UA5076/183	3:10pm	8:45pm	Daily via GUM
UA5076/193	3:10pm	10:25pm	2, 5 via GUM-Palau
0Z604/703	3:30pm	10:40pm	Daily via ICN
UA5072/PR111	9:55pm	7:50am+1	1, 3, 5, 6, 7 via GUM

SAIPAN-HONG KONG (HKG)

0Z606/721	2:20am	11:50pm	1 via ICN
0Z606/721	2:50am	11:50pm	2, 3, 4, 5, 6, 7 via ICN
UA5076/147	3:10pm	9:45pm	1, 5 via GUM
0Z604/723	3:30pm	10:40pm	Daily via ICN

ARRIVALS

ROTA (ROP)-GUAM (GUM)

UA5062	3:40am	5:40am	1, 3, 5 via SPN

ROTA (ROP)-SAIPAN (SPN)

UA5062	3:40am	4:15am	1, 3, 5

GUAM (GUM)-SAIPAN

UA5062	2:40am	4:15am	1, 3, 5 via ROP
UA 5069	2:45am	3:35am	2, 4, 6, 7
UA5071	7:10am	8:00am	Daily
UA5073	10:05am	10:55am	Daily
UA5075	1:45pm	2:35pm	1, 4, 5, 7
UA5077	5:25pm	6:15pm	Daily
UA5079	8:35pm	9:25pm	Daily

NARITA (NRT)-SAIPAN

DL286	7:40pm	12:15am +1	2, 4, 6, 7
DL298	10:25am	3:00pm	Daily
DL288	8:15pm	12:50am+1	Daily

OSAKA (KIX)-SAIPAN

0Z119/606	9:30am	1:10am+1	7 via ICN
0Z119/606	9:30am	1:45am+1	1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 6 via ICN

SEOUL (ICN)-SAIPAN

0Z603	8:50am	2:20pm	Daily
0Z605	7:40pm	1:10am+1	7
0Z605	8:15pm	1:45am+1	1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 6

GUANZHOU (CAN)-SAIPAN

3U8645	7:40pm	3:00am+1	1, 5

SHANGHAI (PVG)-SAIPAN

3U8647	10:40pm	5:00am+1	3, 4, 6, 7

MANILA (MNL)-SAIPAN

DL172/288	7:50am	12:50am+1	Daily via NRT
UA190/5077	10:55am	6:15pm	3, 6 via GUM
UA190/5079	10:55am	9:25pm	3, 6 via GUM
0Z702/605	12:15pm	1:10am+1	7 via ICN
0Z702/605	12:15pm	1:40am+1	1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 6 via ICN
PR110/UA5071	10:10pm	8:00am+1	1, 3, 5, 6, 7 via GUM
UA192/5071	9:45pm	8:00am+1	2, 5 via GUM-Palau
UA184/5071	10:55pm	8:00am+1	1, 3, 4, 6, 7 via GUM
UA184/5071	11:25pm	8:00am+1	2, 5 via GUM
0Z704/603	11:40pm	2:20pm+1	Daily via ICN

HONG KONG (HKG)-SAIPAN

0Z724/603	12:30am	2:20pm	Daily via ICN
0Z722/605	1:10pm	1:10am+1	7
0Z722/605	1:10pm	1:45am+1	1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 6
UA180/5071	10:35pm	8:00am+1	1, 5 via GUM

LEGEND: Days: Monday (1), Tuesday (2), Wednesday (3), Thursday (4), Friday (5), Saturday (6) and Sunday (7); 3U: Sichuan Airlines; UA: United Airlines; DL: Delta Airlines; OZ: Asiana

ETD: Estimated Time of Departure; ETA: Estimated Time of Arrival. The *Saipan Tribune* is not responsible for any changes in the schedule.)

FREEDOM AIR FLIGHT SCHEDULE

Airline	ETD	ETA	Frequency
Guam–Rota			
FRE 100	7:30	8:00	Daily
Rota–Saipan			
FRE 100	8:20	8:50	Daily
Guam–Rota			
FRE 300	17:00	17:30	Daily
Rota–Saipan	17:50	18:20	Daily
Saipan–Rota			
FRE 200	9:30	10:00	Daily
Rota–Guam	10:20	10:45	Daily
Saipan–Rota			
FRE 400	18:55	19:25	Daily
Rota–Guam			
FRE 400	19:40	20:10	Daily
Saipan–Tinian			
FRE 101	6:45	6:55	Daily
FRE 103	7:30	7:40	Daily
FRE 105	8:00	8:10	Daily
FRE 107	8:40	8:50	Daily
FRE 109	9:10	9:20	Daily
FRE 111	10:45	10:55	Daily

Airline	ETD	ETA	Frequency
FRE 115	13:00	13:10	Daily
FRE 117	14:30	14:40	Daily
FRE 119	16:00	16:10	Daily
FRE 121	16:40	16:50	Daily
FRE 123	17:40	17:50	Daily
FRE 125	18:30	18:40	Daily
Tinian–Saipan			
FRE 102	7:05	7:15	Daily
FRE 104	7:50	8:00	Daily
FRE 106	8:20	8:30	Daily
FRE 108	9:00	9:10	Daily
FRE 110	10:00	10:10	Daily
FRE 112	11:05	11:15	Daily
FRE 114	12:00	12:10	Daily
FRE 116	13:30	13:40	Daily
FRE 118	14:50	15:00	Daily
FRE 120	16:20	16:30	Daily
FRE 122	17:00	17:10	Daily
FRE 124	18:05	18:15	Daily
FRE 126	18:50	19:00	Daily

SCHEDULE OF RELIGIOUS SERVICES

CATHOLIC

Mt. Carmel Cathedral
Sunday Mass: 6am Chamorro, 9am English, 11am Filipino and 6pm English
Monday-Saturday: 6am Chamorro
Wednesday: 6pm Chamorro
Parish office hours:
Monday-Saturday
8am-12pm, 12-1pm, 1-5pm

Korean Center
Sunday: 10:30am
Wednesday: 10am
Thursday-Friday: 8pm
Saturday: 3pm and 7:30pm

Kristo Rai Parish
Sunday- Saturday: 6am
Wednesday: 6am and 6pm (PH Novena 5:45pm)
Friday: 5:30pm praying of Divine Mercy Chaplet; 6pm devotional mass in honor of the Sacred Heart of Jesus.
Saturday: 6am and 6pm (anticipated)
Sunday Mass: 6am, 8am and 9:30am 6pm Tagalog mass
Parish office hours: (Fr. Celso G. Magbanua) Monday, Tuesday, Thursday, Saturday 8-11:30am/ 3-5:30pm, Wednesday and Friday 3-5pm.
Telephone no. 285-0273

Santa Soledad Mission Parish
Monday: 6pm
Tuesday: 6pm
Wednesday: 6pm
Friday: 6pm
Saturday: 6pm (Youth mass/ anticipated Sunday mass)
Sunday: 7am and 9am (Children's mass)
Parish office hours: Wednesday and Friday: 8-10am,
Saturday: 4-6pm
Telephone no. 256-4568

Saint Jude Parish
Monday- Friday: 6pm
Saturday: 7am
Sunday: 6am, 8am, 10am
Parish office hours: Monday-Friday 9:30-11:30am, 3:30-5pm
Office is close every Thursday and Saturday
Telephone no. 288-0007

San Antonio Parish
Monday-Friday 6pm
Saturday: 6pm
Sunday: 7am, 9am (Blessing of children)
Parish office hours: Tuesday-Saturday: 8-11:30am, 2-4:45pm
Close on Sunday and Monday

San Francisco de Borja-Rota
Sunday: 6am Chamorro, 8am English
Monday and Tuesday:6am Chamorro
Wednesday:6pm English
Thursday: 6am Chamorro
Friday: 6am English
Saturday: 6am Chamorro, 6pm Tagalog
Sunday: anticipated mass

San Isidro-Rota
Sunday: 5am, 8am, 10am
Monday-Friday: 7pm
Saturday: 5am and 7pm

San Jose (Oleai) Parish
Monday- Saturday: 6am daily mass
Monday- Sunday: 3pm Divine Mercy Chaplet
Wednesday: 6pm, mass, exposition of the blessed sacrament
Saturday: 6pm, anticipated Sunday mass
Sunday: 7:30-9am English, 6pm Tagalog mass
Office hours: Monday-Wednesday: 9am-12pm, 2-5pm
Thursday: day off
Friday- Saturday: 8am-12pm, 2-5pm
Telephone no. 234-6991

San Roque Parish
Sunday: 7:30am Chamorro, 9am English
Monday: 6pm English
Tuesday: 6pm English
Wednesday: 6pm English- novena mass to our Lady of San Roque oil
Thursday: 6pm English
Friday: 6pm English- Devotion to the sacred heart of Jesus (First Fridays)
Saturday: 6am English- Our Lady's Saturday mass for the intentions of the Men and Women in military service, 6pm English- anticipated mass
Parish office hours: daily except Thursday and Sundays: 4:30-6pm
Telephone no. 322-2404, Fr. Bong's cell: 285-912, Diocesan Finance office: 234-3000 ext.143

San Vicente Parish
Monday-Friday: 6pm,
Saturday: 6pm (First Saturday of every month)
Sunday: 6am anticipated mass, 6pm (Neo Catechumenal community mass), 8pm
Sunday: 6am, 9am, 6pm
Parish office hours: daily 9-11am
Telephone no. 235-8208 or 287-0131

Santa Remedios
Sunday: 8am
Monday: 6pm (1st Mondays cemetery masses at 5:30pm)
Tuesday- Friday: 6pm
Saturday: 6pm-anticipated Sunday mass 8-10pm
Parish office hours: Monday- Friday: 8:30am-12pm

PROTESTANT

Amen Church
Sunday : 10am, 1pm, 5pm Wednesday : 7pm Friday Prayer : 9pm Bible Study : 4pm (Tue) Music Practice : 5pm (Sat) Korean class: 3:30pm (Thu) Visitation : 10am(Fri, Sat) Outreach : 8am (First Sat) Tel. No. 285-2121, 256-2221 Email : oseyo@daum.net

Born Again Christian
(Upper Room Int'l Ministries), Saipan
Wednesday Prayer and Healing Night: 8-10:30pm
Saturday Tagalog Service: 8-10:30pm
Sunday English Service: 9:30-11am
Sunday School for Children: 10-11am
Sunday Filipino Service: 7-9pm

Calvary Baptist Church, Saipan
Sunday School: 9am
Sunday Morning Worship: 10am
Sunday Evening Worship: 6pm
Wednesday Prayer Service: 7pm
Telephone no. 234-6026/27

Chinese Christian Church of Saipan
Worship Services:
Sunday: Chinese and Filipino 9am, English 6pm
Bible Study: Wednesday and Saturday 8pm
Telephone no. 235-8540

Church 360
Suite 103 of Marianas Business Plaza (1st floor of former Nauru Building).
Contact www.church360saipan.org, info@church360saipan.org, or call 888-2116
Celebration Service: Sunday at 10:15am
Prayer Fellowship: Wednesday at 6:00pm

Cornerstone Christian Church, Saipan
Morning Service, Sunday, 10:00 am
Evening Service, Sunday, 6:00 pm
Children Sunday School, 10:00am/ 6:00 pm
Prayer Meeting, Wednesday, 7-9 pm
Youth Night of Worship, Friday, 6:30 pm
As Perdido Road
Chalan Piao, Saipan MP 96950
Tel. No. (670) 235-8590
Email: cornerstone@cfemcares.org

Episcopal/Anglican Church on Saipan
St. Paul's Episcopal Church
Worship Service Sunday: Holy Communion 10:00am
Place: Garapan, Plumeria Road,
Call 285-6081 for directions

Grace Christian Assembly, Saipan
Sunday Worship Service: 9-11am
Sunday school/ Children's church 9am (nursery available during Sunday service)
GBI Classes: 4-6pm
Prayer Meeting: 6am Tuesday GCA Kagman, Wednesday Navy Hill, Thursday San Antonio
Home Cell Bible Study: 7pm (Through out the week)
Telephone no. 322-5680

Iglesia Ni Cristo, Saipan
Wednesday: 7:45pm (English)
Thursday: 5:30am (English); 7:45 pm (Tagalog)
Saturday: 7:45pm (Tagalog)
Sunday: 6:45am (English)
Children Worship Service: Sunday, 9am (English)

Immanuel United Methodist Church
Chalan Kanoa Drive, Chalan Kanoa
(east of Town Center and Beach Road, Near Mt. Carmel Cathedral)
Worship Service: 9:00am
Children's Sunday School: 9:00am
Choir Practice: 8:00am
Singspiration: 8:30am
Prayer, Care & Share: Wednesday 7:00pm
Pastor: Millie Carroll 322-6158

Immanuel Methodist Church
(Filipino Congregation)
Sunday: 7:00am-Choir Rehearsal
8:00am-Church Service (Tagalog)
9:15am-Sunday School
Wednesday: 6:30pm, home group
8:00pm-Prayer Meeting
Thursday: 7:30pm-Choir Practice (Church)
Saturday: 8:00pm-Choir Practice (Parsonage)
(Korean Congregation)
Sunday worship: 9am, 10:30, 1pm
Wednesday evening service: 8pm
Daily morning prayer: 5am

Jesus is Lord Church, Saipan
Sunday English Service: 7:30-9am,
Sunday Tagalog Service: 9-11am and 6-8pm,
Wednesday: 7:30-9pm

Korean Presbyterian Church, Saipan
Sunday School: 9:20am
Sunday Adult: 11am
Sunday Evening: 7:30pm
Wednesday: 8pm

Life in the Son Christian Fellowship, Saipan
Sunday Worship Service: 10am–12noon
Tuesday: Leadership Institute 7pm-10pm
Wednesday: Corporate prayer 7pm-8pm
Last Friday of the month-prayer: 7pm-11pm
Friday: Youth on Fire: 7pm-9pm
Tel. No. 235-LIFE (5433)

Living Hope Church of the Nazarene
Isa Drive, I-Denni Hill across from Ponderosa Heights
Bible Studies for all ages: Sunday at 10:00 am
Worship: Sunday at 11:00 am
Pastor Dave Bucher, 256-1142

Marianas Baptist Church, Saipan
English Worship Service: 9-10:30am
Evening Worship Service: 6-7pm
Children Sunday School: 9-10:30am
Tagalog Sunday School: 11am-12pm
English Sunday School: 11am-12pm
Korean Worship Service: 11am-12pm
Wednesday Prayer Meeting:
English, 7pm-8pm
Korean: 8:30pm-9:30pm

Missions Connection Ministry
Every Sunday Celebrations:
10am (English), 6pm (Tagalog)
Wednesday Bible Study: 7pm
Youth Impact Friday: 7pm
Saturday Prayer Meeting: 7pm

Northern Marianas Christian Church
Sunday Worship Service: 10 am at Seventh Day Adventist church on Quartermaster Rd.
Wednesday Service: 7 pm at Fina Sisu Housing FS#1
Contact Nick for more info: 287-1661

Marianas Bible Fellowship Center
Sunday School: 9-9:30am
Divine Worship: 9:30-11am
Evening Service: 7pm-8:30pm
Wednesday Prayer Meeting: 8pm-9pm

Pentecostal Missionary Church of Christ (4th Watch)
Sunday worship 8:30am
Sunday evening 7:00pm
Prayer meeting, every Wednesday 7:30pm
San Jose village, after San Jose Hotel
Telephone: 789-7566

Saipan Christian Church
Sunday: 7:30am-10am
Sunday: 6:30 pm -9pm
Monday: 8 pm -10pm (Prayer Meeting)
Thursday: 8pm-10pm (Cell Groups)

Saipan Church of Christ
Sunday Bible Class: 9am
Sunday Worship: 10am
Sunday Worship English: 10-11am
Sunday Worship Tagalog: 6-7pm
Thursday Bible Study: 7pm

Saipan Community Church
(Sunday Services)
Palau Service: 7:30am-9am
English Service: 10am-11:30am
Chuukese Service: 1pm-2:30pm
Filipino Service: 5:00pm-7:00pm

Seventh-Day Adventist Church, Saipan
(Saturday Church Services)
Sabbath School Program: 9-10am
Lesson Study: 10-10:40am
Divine Service: 11-12pm
Visitation: 3-4pm
Adventist Youth Program: 4:30-5:30pm
Sundown Worship: 6-7pm

First Baptist Church Koblerville
Sunday services:
Sunday school 9:00am
Morning worship 10:00am
Evening service 6:00pm
Wednesday evening bible study 7:00pm

Chinese services
Sunday morning 10:00am
Sunday evening 7:00pm

Everyone is warmly welcome to attend our worship services. Transportation is readily available to anyone who needs a ride to our church.
Telephone No: 285-4661/2

Thy Word Ministries Saipan
Faith Center
Phone 234-0209
New Christian Charismatic Church Service located in Chalan Paio, Beach Road in the Sablan building on the 2nd floor above Subway Sandwiches.
Senior Pastors: George & Gail Kamakahi
Asst. Pastors: Eric & Penny Sakaguchi

Service Times
Sunday 10:00am Worship Service
Sunday 7pm Discipleship Classes
Tuesday 10:00am Bible Studies
Tuesday 6:00pm Intercessory Prayer
Tuesday 7:00pm Music Practice
Wednesday 7:00pm Mid-Week Service
Saturday 10:00am Evangelism

Upper Room International Ministries
Sunday 5:30am-6:30am Morning prayer
7am-9am English service
7am-9am Sunday school
10am-12noon English service, Koblerville
Wednesday 7pm-9pm Prayer meeting
Saturday 7pm-9pm Tagalog service
Venue: Jason Presbyterian Church
Gualo Rai, Saipan

Victory Chapel Christian
Fellowship Church
Sunday School: 9:30am
Sunday AM Worship:10:30am
Sunday PM Worship:7:00am
Wed Worship: 7:30pm
Prayer 45 min. Prior to Service Times
Morning Prayer: 6-8am M-S

Victorious Christian Church
(Formerly God's Victorious Army)
Sunday 8:30am to 10:30am - Worship Service
Monday 7:00 pm - Women's Fellowship
Tuesday nights - Home cellgroup
Wednesday - 7:30pm to 9:00pm Mid Week Service
Friday 7:30pm to 9:00pm Prayer Meeting
Saturday nights - Praise and worship practice
Last Friday of the month - Overnight praying meeting
Pastor Brendon Perez - Tel# 2359246

Editor's Note: Information subject to change without prior notice. All information provided by the respective churches. If you want your church or religious activities included or to report changes and errors, call *Saipan Tribune* at 235-6397 or 235-2440 or email editor@saipantribune.com.

Flashback

A LOOK BACK AT PAST YEARS' HEADLINES

July 21, 2000

NMC adds $1.1M to FY 2001 budget
The Northern Marianas College Board of Regents has moved to revise its proposed Fiscal Year 2001 budget request to $9.2 million to include projected expenses for additional personnel and repair of existing school facilities. This, as the college continues to lobby for more general appropriation funds in light of a Legislature appeal to reduce the current tuition rate. Under the present setup, the school's share in the local appropriation only covers the college's personnel expenditure. The college sources funds for other expenditures from its tuition collection.

BOR approves self-study draft
The Northern Marianas College Board of Regents yesterday endorsed the college's draft of a self-study to be submitted to the Western Association of Schools and Colleges for review and approval. Included in the self-study draft are major reforms the college has accomplished over the years based on recommendations made by the WASC team as of their last accreditation visit. With the noted improvements, the college is hopeful it stands a chance to secure another full-accreditation as well as gain authority to offer four-year baccalaureate degrees on Education.

July 21, 2003

'NMC not rushing Gateway contract'
About a month after the release of its funding, the Northern Marianas College has yet to reach a final agreement with a private firm for the purchase of a facility for its Pacific Gateway project. NMC Board of Regents chairman Vince Seman said Friday that negotiation on the purchase offer still continues. "It's not signed yet. Nothing is final at this time. We don't want to rush it," he said. The board was set to hold a special meeting Friday on the progress of the project but decided to postpone it for this week. The college formally received a $3.5 million grant on June 19 to acquire a piece of property within 60 days. The fund, received through the Governor's Office, requires the college to use it within the prescribed period or lose it to other government priority projects.

Govt insurance program loses members
Despite the lifting of the suspension on off-island medical services for Group Health and Life Insurance subscribers and the spike in the NMI Retirement Fund's investments, things are not all that peachy at the Fund, with GHLI reporting a loss of 572 subscribers due to the recent 15-percent increase in premiums. Fund administrator Karl T. Reyes said that from a membership base of 8,419 members, this went down in June to 7,847 members-a loss of 6.8 percent. "When we increased that [insurance premium] by 15 percent, we lost some members," said Reyes. The Fund implemented the premium increase in May.

July 21, 2004

NMI gets $15K grant to conduct A&E workshop
The U.S. Department of the Interior-Office of Insular Affairs recently awarded the Northern Mariana Islands government a $15,000 technical assistance grant that would be used to conduct a workshop for local architectural and engineering companies. The one-day workshop will be conducted on Aug. 5, from 8am to 12pm at the Multi-Purpose Center in Susupe. Jim Hatashima of the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers-Honolulu District will assist in conducting the workshop, which will focus on the preparation of documents for Architect and Engineer Indefinite Quantity (IDIQ) contracts and registration for Architect-Engineer 8(a) Program under the Small Business Administration.

CDA wants trustee to take over Pacific Gardenia
The Commonwealth Development Authority has asked the Superior Court to appoint a trustee to manage and collect the profits of Pacific Gardenia Hotel until the case against the hotel's owners is resolved. As of last Jan. 20, Sy's Corporation and its officers Ronald, Maria Ana, and Jeannette Sablan owe CDA over $2.4 million, and are more than five years delinquent in their payment, according to CDA's legal counsel. "CDA's rights and interests.will be irreparably injured unless a receiver [or trustee] is appointed to take charge of the business affairs of Sy's [Corporation] and to take possession of its property until a final decision or order from this court is issued following foreclosure, selling the assets or otherwise disposing of this action," attorney F. Matthew Smith said.

Maharlika

Decades-old court, labor judgments remain uncollected

»Philippine government tries to pursue at least $2.8M

By HAIDEE V. EUGENIO
haidee_eugenio@saipantribune.com
REPORTER

For 20 years, Rene Reyes, a long-term Filipino worker on Saipan, has yet to see a single penny of the more than $3,000 in labor judgment that was awarded him for unpaid wages and other damages from a previous employer.

"That judgment was entered in 1992. The unpaid wages were around 1989. That's a long time ago and that manpower agency is long gone; they're no longer in business," Reyes, the founding president of Marianas Advocates for Humanitarian Affairs Ltd., told *Saipan Tribune* yesterday.

Reyes is just one of hundreds of Filipino workers in the CNMI with uncollected awards from labor administrative orders and court judgments years or decades since their cases were supposedly closed.

"What use is a court order or a judgment if workers can't collect, right? But in the CNMI, that's too common," he said.

However, Reyes cautioned other workers in the same situation to "move on" and not to rely on uncollected judgments to justify their presence in the CNMI if they do not have a legal immigration status.

Segundo "Jun" Lapeceros, a former security guard, has yet to collect from a 1997 U.S. District Court judgment for unpaid wages. He said his former employer, the long-defunct Commonwealth Security, was not paying his and other employees' salaries.

"The court awarded me some $36,000 around that time, and that included unpaid wages, penalties and interest. There were 11 of us claimants. I think the total uncollected for all of us would be a really huge amount," he said.

Lapeceros said the owner of the defunct Commonwealth Security has only managed to pay $100 per quarter to the claimants.

"With that amount and you deduct lawyer's fees, we're ending up getting $16 or less per quarter. There was a time the owner said he could only afford $75 per quarter. I wonder why the court allows that. Of course we don't look forward to it or rely on that for any of our expenses. But at least that gives us a sense of justice," Lapaceros said in a phone interview.

Saipan Consul General Medardo Macaraig, in a separate interview yesterday, said the Consulate General has gathered information from the Filipino community in the CNMI on judgment awards still owed Filipino workers, and that amount is at least $2.8 million.

"We are still pursuing this," he said.

Macaraig said the Consulate General provided this information to the Philippine ambassador to Washington, D.C. for assistance.

The list has some 111 names of Filipino workers. Macaraig said workers who believe they also ought to be included on the list could still contact the Consulate General.

Carlito Marquez, secretary of the Marianas Association of Filipino Engineers and Architects, said that by having a consolidated list of those who have yet to collect from judgments, there would be a better chance of still collecting from former employers.

"The consul general has been reporting this every time he meets with leaders of Filipino organizations, and we are thankful for the Consulate General for still pursuing this," he said.

Back in 2008, the U.S. Federal Labor Ombudsman's Office collected Labor administrative orders and judgments that awarded a total of $6.1 million in unpaid wages and other damages to alien workers but remain uncollected. These include those owed to Filipino workers. Macaraig said they are not aware of an updated list.

Reyes, one of those who hasn't collected anything from a judgment entered 20 years ago, said the lengthy process of collecting if at all should not stop anyone from pursuing their goals and ensuring they have legal status to continue to work in the CNMI.

"Life goes on, move on," he added.

PH welcomes Indon effort to mend rifts in Asean

Indonesia's top diplomat on Wednesday said he received the backing of both the Philippines and Vietnam to push ahead with a code of conduct in the West Philippine Sea (South China Sea) as he pursued his mission of patching up rifts within the Association of Southeast Asian Nations (Asean) over territorial disputes with China.

The 10-nation group could not agree on a concluding joint statement at a ministerial meeting in Phnom Penh, Cambodia, last week, riven with discord over how to deal with China's increasingly assertive role in the strategic waters of the West Philippine Sea. It was the first time in almost half a century it had failed to deliver a joint communiqué.

The Asean's reputation for harmony and polite debate was left in tatters by the Phnom Penh meeting.

AP

In this photo released by China's Xinhua, Chinese fishing vessels sail past a beacon of Zhubi Reef of the Spratly islands in South China Sea on Wednesday, July 18, 2012. A fleet of 30 fishing vessels from China's southernmost province of Hainan departed from Yongshu Reef in the Spratly on Tuesday night and arrived at Zhubi Reef Wednesday morning to fish and detect fishery resources in the area, Xinhua said. The Spratlys are a major cluster of potentially oil- and gas-rich islands and reefs long disputed by China, the Philippines, Taiwan, Malaysia, Vietnam and Brunei.

Welcome effort

One Asean diplomat accused China of buying the loyalty of Cambodia and some other states with economic largesse.

Malacañang on Thursday said it welcomed Indonesia's Foreign Minister Marty Natalegawa's effort to unite the Asean. "It's important that Asean's centrality as a regional bloc be preserved," presidential spokesperson Edwin Lacierda told reporters.

Lacierda said the Asean needed reinvigoration as a regional grouping, but he did not go as far as accusing Cambodia of siding with China in the West Philippine Sea disputes.

"We don't want to accuse a fellow Asean country," Lacierda said.

From Manila, Natalegawa traveled to Hanoi and there said he also received backing from Vietnam on his work on the code of conduct. He said he hoped to produce a statement of unity at the end of his trip this week.

The West Philippine Sea has become Asia's biggest potential military flash point. Beijing's sovereignty claim over the huge area has set it against Vietnam and the Philippines as the three countries race to tap possibly huge oil reserves.

Not a claimant

Indonesia, the region's biggest country and one seen as neutral given it has no claim to the disputed waters, has taken on the role of mediator—tasked with drawing up a code of conduct to prevent any acts of brinkmanship spilling over into conflict.

"Unfortunately, last week, there were some difficulties but I believe … what took place in Phnom Penh was an exception, it's not the rule," Natalegawa said in Hanoi, the second stop on his regional tour after Manila.

"Let's keep it that way, let's keep it as an exception," he said, adding the divide represented a "critical moment" for the group's unity.

Natalegawa began an emergency swing through Southeast Asia on Wednesday morning to try to mend rifts within the Asean caused by Cambodia's blocking the Philippines' and Vietnam's efforts to include their territorial disputes with China in the joint statement.

Natalegawa's first stop was Manila, where he met with Foreign Secretary Albert del Rosario for discussions of key principles for dealing with Asean members' territorial disputes with China in the West Philippine Sea.

Cambodian challenge

Natalegawa left Vietnam on Wednesday evening for Bangkok. He said he would conclude his trip with a meeting in Phnom Penh to try to convince his Cambodian counterpart to "restore Asean cohesion and unity on the South China Sea."

Cambodia was at the center of the storm over the failed communiqué, accused of siding with China, which had objected to the mention of a standoff with the Philippines at Panatag Shoal (Scarborough Shoal) in the West Philippine Sea. Beijing maintains the dispute should be resolved bilaterally.

The discord exposed how deeply Asean's member states have been polarized by China's rapidly expanding economic influence in the region.

Binding code

Natalegawa said there was a need to push for a binding code of conduct and a declaration allowing for safe passage of ships in the disputed waters.

"The next task [is] to pursue in an aggressive way … the code of conduct on the South China Sea," he said, adding there was a need "to see the code of conduct adopted now, not in three years."

"Then we have a benchmark on which to measure the behavior of countries in the region," Natalegawa said. ***(Philippine Daily Inquirer)***

Loida Lewis is China's newest public enemy no. 1

By RODEL RODIS
INQUIRER.NET

China's newest Public Enemy No. 1 is no longer exiled human rights activist Chen Guancheng but Loida Nicolas-Lewis, the New York-based national chair of the US Pinoys for Good Governance, or USP4GG.

After Lewis held a press conference in Manila on July 14 to announce the worldwide campaign to "Boycott Made in China Products," China's government-controlled media fired back with a newscast calling on the Chinese people to boycott a chain of convenience stores in China believed to be owned by Lewis.

Nicolas-Lewis

According to the English language translation of the nationwide newscast, "Chinese are not happy with one particular Filipino. The mastermind behind calling on Filipinos throughout the world to carry out large-scale anti-China demonstrations was revealed to be Filipino-American Loida Nicolas-Lewis, Chairman and CEO of TLC Beatrice (China), Limited, a Cayman company that operates retail convenience stores in four Chinese cities: Xiamen, Chengdu, Suzhou and Guangzhou. Chinese netizens were shocked by this news and urged a boycott on her businesses in China."

Unfortunately for Lewis' former Chinese business partners who bought out Lewis' ownership interest in the "Beatrice" stores—at a substantial discount—several years ago, the China authorities are boycotting a wholly-owned Chinese business.

In her July 14 press conference in Manila, Lewis explained that her group's call for the global boycott of all kinds of China-made products was a way of matching China's diplomatic and military arrogance in claiming ownership of the Scarborough Shoal and the Kalayaan Group of Islands in the West Philippine Sea.

"The 'Boycott Made in China Goods' campaign will not be limited to Filipinos. This campaign will be carried out globally to encourage all the people of the world to join," Lewis said.

Ted Laguatan, USP4GG spokesman, said in the same press conference that he expects the campaign to go viral. "We hope to achieve the level of response and outrage that was generated when the Americans found out that the US Olympic team's uniforms for the London 2012 Olympics were made in China," Laguatan said.

At the press conference, Lewis also announced that her US Pinoys group will initiate the Global Day of Prayer for Peace in the Scarborough Shoal on Aug. 21, the 29th anniversary of the martyrdom of Ninoy Aquino.

On Aug. 21, 2011, USP4GG sponsored a Day of Prayer for Peace in the Spratlys which was held in 175 cities throughout North America. "This year the global target is 300 cities," said Charito Benipayo, coordinator of the 2011 Northern California prayer campaign that was held in 20 cities in Northern California.

Information about the August 21 Global Day of Prayer can be obtained from uspgg.org.

Philippines sets plan to evacuate 8,000 Filipinos

Citing "escalating violence" in Syria, the Department of Foreign Affairs on Thursday said it would deploy a "rapid response team" to assist the Philippine Embassy in Damascus in repatriating 8,000 Filipinos in the strife-torn Middle East country.

DFA spokesperson Raul Hernandez said the team would be composed of officers from the departments of foreign affairs, labor and the interior.

Hernandez said that since March, 1,806 OFWs had been repatriated under a mandatory evacuation program.

Of the 8,000 Filipinos still in Syria only around 1,300 had expressed willingness to return home. They include 130 staying at the embassy's quarters in Damascus.

But as the situation worsens, Hernandez said he expected the number of returnees to increase.

'Strategic silence'

He said the embassy's charge d'affaires, Olivia Palala, was doing everything to implement the evacuation.

Earlier, Foreign Secretary Albert del Rosario said the embassy would remain open "as long as we have OFWs there who need help."

Instead of condemning the atrocities committed by the Syrian government, the Philippines is "maintaining strategic silence on the situation in Syria as we are focused on the safety and welfare of several thousands of our people who remain there," Del Rosario said. ***(Philippine Daily Inquirer)***

Philippines says boy had deadly virus but recovers

MANILA, Philippines (AP)—A 19-month-old Filipino boy has been diagnosed as having had the same virus that's killed hundreds of children around Asia, but authorities say he has recovered.

Health Secretary Enrique Ona says the boy was the only confirmed case among eight suspected in the Philippines to have the form of hand, foot and mouth disease known as enterovirus 71 strain, or EV-71.

Ona said Friday that the boy had fever and rashes around his mouth and on his hands, feet and buttocks, typical symptoms of the disease. He said he didn't require hospitalization and is doing well. No other member of his community in southern Davao City is infected.

The recent deaths of almost 60 Cambodian children raised the alarm over the disease. Vietnam and China have also had outbreaks.

Former NBA star Dennis Rodman finally meets father

By OLIVER TEVES
THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

MANILA, Philippines (AP)—Former NBA star Dennis Rodman has finally met his estranged father after 42 years of separation, following an exhibition game in the Philippines.

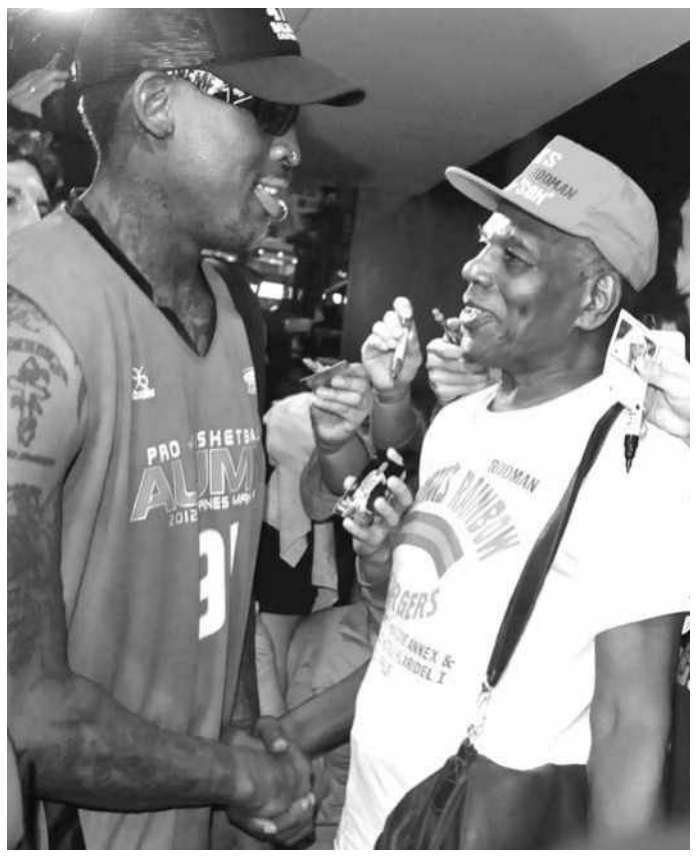
Philander Rodman Jr., who has acknowledged fathering 29 children by 16 mothers, says he was happy and surprised that his son agreed to meet him late Wednesday. He tried to meet the basketball Hall of Famer during another game in Manila in 2006.

"It was great," he said Thursday of the first time he held his son's hands since they last met in December 1969.

"I've been trying to meet him for years. And then last night, boom, I met him. I was really, really happy and very surprised," he told The Associated Press.

The NBA "Alumni" team, which also included Scott Pippen, Horace Grant, and Mitch Richmond, played against former top professional Philippine Basketball Association players in the All-Star Challenge. The Alumni won.

Philander, who has been living in the Philippines for nearly 50 years, said he wanted to explain to his son that he didn't abandon his family in the United States, but they only had time for greetings and handshakes.



AP

In this photo taken on Wednesday, July 18, 2012, former NBA star Dennis Rodman, left, shakes hands with his estranged father Philander Rodman Jr. after an exhibition game in Manila, Philippines. The two finally met after 42 years of separation. Philander said he was happy and surprised that his son agreed to meet him late Wednesday.

He said he spent only about three minutes with his son, who was also busy signing autographs.

"I really, really felt good," he said. "It's the beginning of something new."

He gave his number to his son who promised to call.

He said his son did not even want to talk about him six years ago, but he was encouraged to try again to meet him after Tuesday's press conference where the former Pistons and Bulls star invited him to watch Wednesday's game.

"I don't hate the guy that brought me into this world," Dennis Rodman told reporters. "The fact is, if I saw him, I'll just tell him, 'You know, you're a friend of mine.'"

During a break, with seconds left to the end of the game, Dennis Rodman grabbed a microphone acknowledged his father's presence and pointed to him in the arena.

The crowd applauded as the elder Rodman stood up wearing a red baseball cap that said "Yes, Dennis Rodman is my son."

The 71-year-old Vietnam War veteran now operates the Rodman's Rainbow Obamaburger restaurant in northern Angeles City.

He said his restaurant menu includes burgers with red, yellow and green colored buns and fries, colors associated with his flamboyant son.

COMMENTARY

No one can stop China in Spratlys but China or the power of world opinion

By JOSE T. ALMONTE
FORMER NATIONAL SECURITY ADVISER

No one can stop China from claiming "indisputable sovereignty" over the West Philippine Sea (South China Sea)—except China itself or the authoritative power of world opinion.

Short of war, a war nobody wants or would wish, even the United States can only delay or impede the fulfillment of China's inordinate ambition to gain sovereign control of 3 million square kilometers of this great inland sea that is also Southeast Asia's maritime heartland.

This is the strategic context of China's assertive ambiguity in the West Philippine Sea.

Just now, Beijing can only bluster and intimidate, as it probes for weaknesses in its rival claimants.

But once China can translate its economic power into military capability credible enough to challenge that of the United States—when the "time is right" in China's terms—then the geopolitical configuration in the Asia-Pacific region will change radically.

And time and circumstances favor China. Analysts say China is likely to become the world's largest economy in a decade or so.

If they are right, the Philippines has only 10 short years to prepare for what is likely to become an interesting Asia-Pacific future.

Long-term security

Given the constraints under which it's working, the administration of President Benigno Aquino has so far done all that could possibly be done, in the short term, to defend our nation's interests in the West Philippine Sea.

But in this case it's not enough to deal with the immediate problem. Our nation's long-term security hangs in the balance.

And to ensure our safety, we must look at the root of our nation's security, which lies in our people—in everyone of us and nobody else.

If our country is to prevail in any challenge, if the Philippines is to become worthy of respect as a sovereign nation, we must first of all enable our people to become effective wealth creators.

We must make our country rich enough to enable us to acquire the means to defend our nation's interests, to protect our people's dignity and honor.

Nationhood infrastructure

To carry out the government's strategies, policies, plans and programs to grow and develop the nation, we must strive urgently to create the four conditions necessary for growth and development.

Let us make no mistake, without these, the nation can hardly enforce its Constitution and its laws, and no development plan can succeed:

1. We must come to terms with ourselves. We must build among us the infrastructure of nationhood. We must be able to answer the basic question of who we are.

We must live the core values our forebears fought and died for: Dignity, honor, freedom, justice, self-determination, hard work, discipline, tolerance, mutual caring and compassion.

We must become a people at peace with themselves and with the world.

There is nothing our people cannot accomplish, if our identity and the goals we seek are articulated in terms of the core values taught us by our heroes and martyrs.

These core values define what is right or wrong for our people. They guide us, like our heroes and martyrs, to live only when it is right to live, and to die only when it is right to die.

2. No matter what it takes, we must end our internal wars. Our radical insurgency is kept alive by our grievous inequality and the elemental injustice of mass poverty. And both are caused by corruption and misgovernment.

The same is true of our separatist conflict in Mindanao. There popular frustrations are worsened by rivalries over land and livelihood, and the situation is complicated by ethnic and religious enmities.

3. We must complete all the land and nonland reforms we still need to do. Not only will their completion make rebellion, separatism and mutiny irrelevant but will also accelerate our nation's growth. And, finally, it will unite our people.

4. We must transfer the power of the few over the state to the people as citizens. In the World Bank's view, we are a country where state policies and their implementation serve not the common good but those of special interests.

The capture of the state and its regulatory agencies by vested interest groups has made our economy the least competitive among comparable economies in East Asia.

In sum, we must put our house in order. We must level our popular playing field to grow and develop the nation—and so enable our people to surmount any challenge.

No luxury of time

As we create the four conditions necessary for growth and development, we must also carry out our development plans. Given the uncertainties building up in East Asia, we do not have the luxury of time.

It is the Chinese people's historic sense that is driving their country's rise. They count their recovery from generations of humiliation at the hands of the great powers as lasting 150 years starting from the initial European effort to open up China around 1800.

In 1949, Mao Zedong proclaimed China had stood up. But China began to recover economically only after Deng Xiaoping's reforms (1978). In three and a half decades, China has become the world's second largest economy.

We, too, must tap into our people's sense of nationality—and do no less. By creating the four conditions necessary for growth and development that I cited above, and by simultaneously carrying out the government's development plans, we can change our country—we can modernize it without leaving anyone behind—during the next 10 years.

By that time, we will also have nurtured the inclusive institutions that will sustain our people's capacities for wealth creation.

No primrose paths

Let us not delude ourselves. There are no shortcuts—no primrose paths—to growth and development. We must never give up even if our country's rise takes 150 years or more.

We have no choice. The alternative is too dire to contemplate.

We must work together to prevent the situation developing that reduces our country into a tributary, a vassal, a province of a great power.

Those who sacrificed and died for us and for generations yet to come will never forgive us if we fail to summon the courage and the will to take the radical steps toward the Filipino future: To deliberately put in place the four conditions necessary for growth and development without delay.

Samu't Sari

EDUCATION STAKEHOLDERS

Education Commissioner Rita A. Sablan, third from left, shares with Board of Education members Lucy Blanco-Maratita, seated left, and Herman T. Guerrero, seated right, the status of the system's finances while federal programs officer Tim Thornburgh looks on during a break in Wednesday's regular meeting.

CONTRIBUTED PHOTO

BRABU FUNDRAISER

With only a few days to go, the Manta Ray Band needs your dollars to make their performance at the 2012 Olympics a reality. Drop your much needed dollars in Ted's Tuba at Brabu Pharmacy to support their goal!

CONTRIBUTED PHOTO

BRIDGE CAPITAL STEPS UP

CONTRIBUTED PHOTO

Bridge Capital, LLC, through its owners John Baldwin and Shawn Scott, donated $2,500 to the Manta Ray Band to assist in their fundraising efforts for their trip to London to perform in the Olympic ceremonies. Baldwin and Scott are proud to once again sponsor this exceptionally talented band and encourage the students to enjoy this unique experience as they represent the CNMI in London.

BEST WISHES!

Congratulations to newleyweds Victor and Leah Conanan of Tinian Dynasty Hotel and Casino, who were married on July 12, 2012.

CONTRIBUTED PHOTO

FIRST BIRTHDAY

Calen Borja celebrates his first birthday and christening with his parents, Shiela Mari and Kerry Borja of Tinian, at JC Café.

CONTRIBUTED PHOTO

BIRTHDAY SHOUTOUT

Happy natal day to Reina Bel Cabel Baltazar who is celebrating her 7th birthday today, July 21, 2012, at her residence in Chalan Kiya, Saipan. May the good Lord bless you, shower His blessings upon you, give you good health and many, many more birthdays to come! Greetings come from Ninong Jun Lapeceros and Ninang Vicky Ladia.

CONTRIBUTED PHOTO

Seven years ago today, the Lord blessed us with a miracle…our son Frankie J. Raisang Ramon. Happy birthday Boi! Wishing you all the best in life. We will always love, cherish, and protect you. May God bless you always! Greetings come from Mom, Dad, your little bro J.T., and the whole family.

CONTRIBUTED PHOTO

Happy birthday to Wayne Dawe! May you have many more birthdays to come! Enjoy your special day! Greetings come from the naughtykines, friends and family.

CONTRIBUTED PHOTO

Business

Microsoft reports first loss as public company

LOS ANGELES (AP)—Microsoft posted its first quarterly loss in its 26 years as a public company on Thursday as it declared a struggling online ad business a bust and prepared for one of the biggest product updates in its history.

The software company had warned two weeks ago that it would take a $6.2 billion charge in the April-June quarter because its 2007 purchase of online ad service aQuantive failed to help it compete with Google Inc. The amount reflected the bulk of the $6.3 billion acquisition cost.

The online ad business remains just a tiny part of Microsoft—comprising just 4 percent of its annual revenue. Most of the company's sales come from its Office suite of productivity software, Windows operating system and, increasingly, computer servers.

Upbeat business software and server sales in the quarter helped offset a flat market for personal computers, which had put a damper on Windows sales. Taken as a whole, the software giant's results beat analyst expectations. Shares rose 2.4 percent to $31.39 in after-hours trading following the earnings announcement.

Including the big write-down on aQuantive, Microsoft booked a $492 million loss in the fiscal fourth quarter, or 6 cents a share. That compares with earnings of $5.9 billion, or 69 cents, a year ago.

Revenue rose 4 percent to $18.06 billion.

Excluding the adjustment and the deferral of some revenue related to its upcoming Windows 8 operating system, earnings came to 73 cents per share.

Analysts polled by FactSet were looking for 62 cents per share of earnings on revenue of $18.15 billion.

"The quarter was pretty much in line across major segments of the business," Nomura analyst Rick Sherlund said.

Microsoft's fortunes are now tied to the Oct. 26 release of Windows 8, the most extreme redesign of the company's flagship operating system since 1995. Windows 8 will feature a new look and boast new technology that will enable the operating system to work on touch-controlled tablet computers, as well as Microsoft's traditional stronghold of desktop and laptop computers. In conjunction with Windows 8, Microsoft is planning to release its own tablet, the Surface.

A revamped version of Office, which bundles word processing, spreadsheet and email programs, is also in the works. Earlier this week, Microsoft previewed how the next version of Office will work on tablet computers running on Windows 8.

The company was conservative forecasting how much the product revamps will help drive revenue.

Chief Financial Officer Peter Klein told analysts that for the coming year, "We expect Windows revenue to be roughly in line with the PC market" which it said was flat in the last quarter and is expected to continue that way in the three months through September.

Even if Windows revenue is flat, that will be an improvement since revenue in the division has now dropped in five of the past seven quarters. It fell 13 percent in the quarter to $4.1 billion.

Microsoft excluded from its forecast any extra Windows sales that would come from its Surface tablet, for which it gave no outlook.

With Windows 8-powered devices still a few months away, some prospective PC buyers have been postponing their purchases so they can buy the latest technology from Microsoft this fall. Others who buy certain machines running Windows 7 will be able to upgrade to Windows 8 for $15 for a limited period.

AP

Kirk Koenigbauer, Corporate Vice President of Microsoft Office Division, speaks at a Microsoft event in San Francisco, Monday, July 16, 2012.

Yahoo CEO Mayer's pay package worth more than $59M

NEW YORK (AP)—Yahoo is giving its new chief executive Marissa Mayer a compensation package worth more than $59 million over the next several years.

Mayer

Yahoo Inc. said in a regulatory filing Thursday that Mayer will receive an annual salary of $1 million. She's also eligible for a $2 million bonus, and $12 million in restricted stock and stock options that will vest over the next three years.

Meyer, who is 37 and was lured away from Google Inc., will also receive $30 million in the form of a one-time retention award if she stays at Yahoo for 5 years.

Yahoo says it will also give Mayer restricted stock valued at $14 million to partially compensate her for forfeiting money she would have received at Google. Those payments will be staggered through 2014, with $4 million due this year.

Mayer's salary and maximum bonus this year will be capped at $1.4 million. That's because she went to work at Yahoo Tuesday, with just five-and-half months left in the year.

Google Inc. never disclosed Mayer's compensation during her 13-year career at the Internet search leader.

But Mayer struck it rich when Google went public in 2004. She joined Google in 1999 as its 20th employees and accumulated stock options that yielded a jackpot the company's stock soared from its initial public offering price of $85 to nearly $750.

Nailing down a precise value of Mayer's Yahoo pay package is difficult because so much of the compensation is tied to her ability to lift Yahoo Inc.'s sagging stock. She could pocket a much larger windfall if Yahoo's shares soar during her tenure or make less if the stock remains in a funk.

The estimated value of executive pay packages can also be calculated in dramatically different ways. After factoring in future grants of restricted stock and stock options due Mayer under her employment agreement, Yahoo said her annual compensation will be worth about $20 million annually, or about $100 million during the next five years that the company hopes to retain her as CEO.

The typical CEO of a public company in the U.S. made $9.6 million last year, according to an analysis by The Associated Press using data from Equilar, an executive pay research firm.

Yahoo's previous—and short-lived—CEO, Scott Thompson, had a $27 million pay package. Thompson's salary and bonus were the same as Mayer's, but Yahoo dangled more incentives to lure her away from Google to become Yahoo's fifth CEO in five years.

Thompson stepped aside in mid-May amid an uproar over misleading information on his resume. Other Yahoo CEOs stepped aside or were shoved aside after failing to revive the company's revenue growth.

Yahoo is counting on Mayer to bring the same drive, managerial skills and knack for innovation that she displayed while helping Google build some of its most popular products.

New iPad goes on sale in China after suit settled

BEIJING (AP)—Apple released its newest iPad in China on Friday after settling a lawsuit over ownership of its name and requiring buyers to place orders in advance to control crowds.

Watched by security guards, a few dozen shoppers waited outside stores in Beijing and Shanghai, which opened on time at 8 a.m. That was in contrast to the chaotic scene outside Apple's main Beijing store in January, when some customers who wanted to buy a new iPhone shouted and threw eggs after managers delayed the opening due to safety concerns about the hundreds of people waiting.

Sun Xufei, a 32-year-old computer technician who was the first customer in line in Shanghai, said he had put off buying an iPad so Apple had time to develop "a perfect one." The 30 customers in line when the store opened were outnumbered by the reporters watching them.

"I am very surprised to see there is nobody here waiting," Sun said.

Apple Inc. cleared a potential legal hurdle to the release when it paid $60 million this month to settle a dispute with a local company, Shenzhen Proview Technology Ltd., over ownership of the iPad name. Apple said it bought global rights to the iPad name from Proview in 2009 but Chinese authorities say the rights in China were never transferred.

China is Apple's second-largest market after the United States and the source of much of the Cupertino, California-based company's sales growth.

Qu Hongyu, a 20-year-old university student in Shanghai, expressed frustration that Apple waited four months after the new iPad debuted abroad to release it in China.

Qu said she could have asked a friend abroad to send her one, "but I think it's better to get the product here, because I don't want to owe somebody a favor."

BUSINESS BRIEFS

Renault, Nissan invest in South Korea production

TOKYO (AP)—The French-Japanese auto alliance of Renault and Nissan is investing $160 million in its South Korean Renault Samsung Motors to boost annual production by 80,000 vehicles, taking advantage of South Korea's free trade agreement with the U.S. The plant in the southern city of Busan is now making 180,000 vehicles a year, sold in South Korea and 60 other nations. The investment, announced Friday, will be for the next-generation Nissan Rogue crossover sport-utility vehicle, starting production in 2014, with annual capacity of 80,000 vehicles, mostly destined for North American markets.

CEOs of AMR, US Airways discuss merger options

DALLAS (AP)—The CEOs of American Airlines parent AMR Corp. and US Airways met over breakfast Thursday to talk about potential merger scenarios. AMR's Thomas Horton told US Airways' Doug Parker that he won't be rushed into any deals and will methodically compare all offers against AMR's plan for remaining independent, said a person familiar with the discussion. This person spoke on condition of anonymity because details of the meeting haven't been made public. US Airways Group Inc. said it hoped the meeting was the start of a process in which it can show the benefits of a merger between the two airlines.

STOCK PORTFOLIO

LEADING INDICATORS

DOW	S&P	NASDAQ
12,943.36	1,376.51	2,965.90
34.66	3.73	23.29
+0.27%	+0.27%	+0.79%

EXCHANGE RATES

In U.S. dollar terms

Australian Dollar	0.9615	Hong Kong Dollar	7.7562	Philippine Peso	41.8478
British Pound	0.6369	Indian Rupee	55.2275	Singapore Dollar	1.255
Canadian Dollar	1.0084	Indonesian Rupiah	9473.75	South Korean Won	1140.9
Chinese Yuan	6.3729	Japanese Yen	78.5888	Swiss Franc	0.9801
Euro	0.8161	Malaysian Ringgit	3.1557	Taiwan Dollar	29.9755
		New Zealand Dollar	1.2473	Thailand Baht	31.72

Nation

In Florida, Obama criticizes Romney over Medicare

WEST PALM BEACH, Fla. (AP)—Wooing Florida voters, President Barack Obama warned Thursday that Republican challenger Mitt Romney would gut his health care reform law and turn Medicare into a voucher program, driving up costs for the elderly on fixed incomes. Romney, firing away near his Boston home base, accused Obama of caring only about saving his own job—not the jobs of Americans.

In the daily war of words in an up-for-grabs presidential contest, health care politics took top billing as Obama opened two days of campaigning in Florida, the largest and most coveted of the nation's Election Day toss-up states. Obama could see his chances for another term seriously damaged if Romney prevails here.

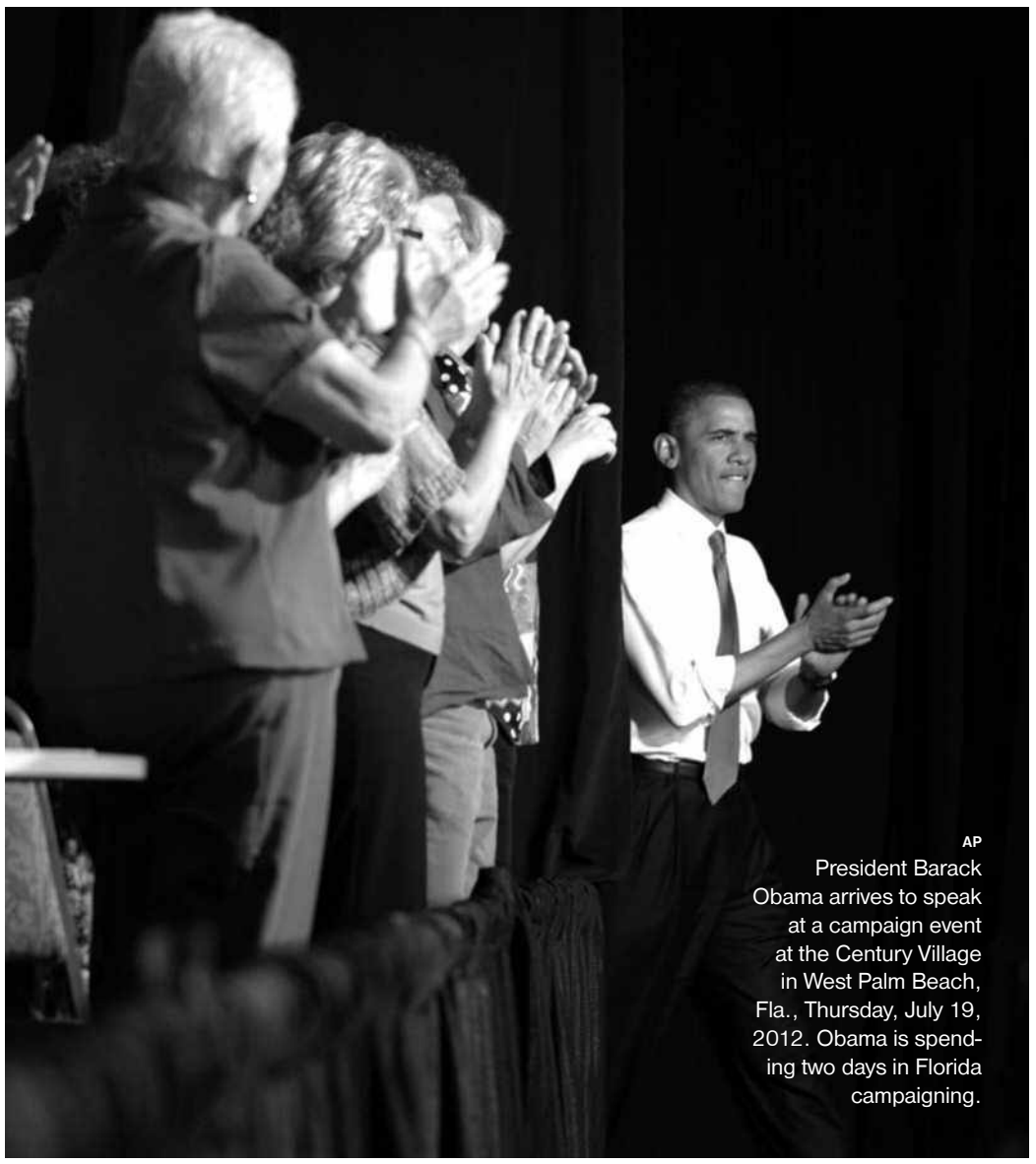
For his part, Romney, in hastily arranged remarks to reporters near Boston, kept the focus on the sluggish economic recovery under Obama's watch. He cited new government figures showing that the number of American seeking unemployment benefits rose by 34,000 last week, a figure that may have been skewed higher by seasonal factors.

Both candidates were pouring most of their money and attention into the collection of fewer than 10 states expected to decide the election. First lady Michelle Obama launched a new effort to rally supporters behind her husband, trying to light a fire by saying the whole race could "come down to just a few votes per precinct in key states."

Nowhere is the campaign potentially more pivotal than in Florida, which decided the 2000 election and remains the ultimate swing state. With a large pool of retired voters, Medicare has been used by both parties to rally support from seniors in Florida and elsewhere, mostly by warning that the other party had in mind changes that would curb the national insurance program for older Americans.

Obama sought to broaden his attack on Romney's support for a House Republican plan that would shift Medicare from a fee-for-service program into one where future retirees buy insurance using subsidies. Republicans say it would introduce competition and give seniors more choices, but it is closely watched in Florida, where about half of the 2008 electorate was age 50 and older.

"He plans to turn Medicare into a voucher program," Obama said at West Palm Beach's Century Village, home to thousands of Democratic retirees from New York, New Jersey and elsewhere. "If the voucher isn't worth what it takes to buy health insurance in the private marketplace, you're out of luck. You've got to make up the difference. You're on your own."



AP
President Barack Obama arrives to speak at a campaign event at the Century Village in West Palm Beach, Fla., Thursday, July 19, 2012. Obama is spending two days in Florida campaigning.

Hospital worker charged in NH hepatitis C outbreak

CONCORD, N.H. (AP)—A hospital worker accused of injecting himself with stolen drugs and contaminating syringes that infected at least 30 patients with hepatitis C was charged Thursday with federal drug crimes.

David Kwiatkowski, a former technician at Exeter Hospital, was arrested Thursday morning at a Massachusetts hospital where he was receiving treatment. U.S. Attorney John Kacavas called Kwiatkowski a "serial infector" who worked in at least six other states, including one in which he is a suspect in a similar incident involving a hospital operating room. Kacavas declined to name any of the other states but said they are not clustered in one part of the country.

"We are closer to the beginning of our investigation than the end," Kacavas said.

Kwiatkowski, originally from Michigan, worked at Exeter's cardiac catheterization lab from April 2011 through this past May, when he was fired. He told investigators that he learned he had hepatitis C in May, but Kacavas said there is evidence he had the liver-destroying disease since at least June 2010.

"This serial infector has been contained, and the menace he posed to public health and safety has been removed," Kacavas said.

Authorities didn't say in what hospital Kwiatkowski was being treated so he couldn't be contacted for comment.

Investigators believe Kwiatkowski, 33, stole syringes containing fentanyl, a powerful anesthetic more potent than morphine, and injected himself with them. They said he then put another liquid, such as saline, into the syringes, which were later used for patients. They said a search of his vehicle found an empty fentanyl syringe and several needles.

According to an affidavit, Kwiatkowski sometimes left the lab sweating profusely and attended procedures on his off days. One witness said he appeared to be "on something." At least once, he was sent home for the day after a colleague told a supervisor that he was unfit to perform medical care, Kacavas said.

Kwiatkowski was what is known as a "traveler," a technician hired by hospitals for temporary stints around the country. In a statement, Exeter Hospital said he underwent drug testing and a criminal background check when he was hired.

"It is deeply disturbing that the alleged callous acts of one individual can have such an impact on so many innocent lives. As a result of his alleged actions, people in our community, who in many cases are the friends and neighbors of the 2,300 people who work here, now face the challenge of a potentially chronic disease," hospital president Kevin Callahan said.

The hospital declined to comment further about Kwiatkowski, citing the ongoing investigation.

Hepatitis C is a blood-borne viral infection that can cause liver disease and chronic health issues. Altogether, 31 people, including Kwiatkowski, have tested positive for the same strain of the disease since the investigation began in late May, including an 89-year-old woman who was treated for a heart valve problem in February.

Ex-chairman of Penn State board of trustees quits

By MICHAEL RUBINKAM
ASSOCIATED PRESS

A member and former chairman of the Penn State board of trustees resigned on Thursday, becoming the first board member to do so in the wake of the Jerry Sandusky child sex abuse scandal.

Steve Garban said in a letter his presence on the board had become "a distraction and an impediment" to its efforts to move forward.

Garban

Garban, who had stepped down as board chairman after Sandusky's November arrest but had remained a board member, was harshly criticized over his handling of the crisis that engulfed Penn State, and he faced persistent calls from alumni and fellow board members to resign.

An internal investigation by former FBI Director Louis Freeh found that Garban was briefed twice about developments in the Sandusky case but didn't share what he knew with the entire board, depriving trustees of a chance to prepare for the worst crisis in Penn State's 157-year history.

Freeh's 267-page report portrayed a disengaged board that handed too much responsibility to the university president and failed to investigate deeply enough once it became aware of a grand jury probe.

After the report's release, trustees accepted responsibility for a failure of oversight and said they were "deeply ashamed." Board Chairwoman Karen Peetz, who announced Garban's resignation in a letter on the board's website, said at the time that no trustee would step down, however.

Garban didn't immediately return a call seeking comment Thursday night. In his resignation letter to Peetz, he said he had "devoted" his adult life to Penn State.

"It has been a privilege and an honor to serve the university that has done so much for me," the letter stated. "Indeed, it is precisely because of my deep gratitude to and respect for my beloved alma mater that I now step aside."

He called the past months "some of the most painful of my life."

"The horrific allegations that came to light in November have haunted us all, but nothing we have experienced compares to that of Jerry Sandusky's victims," he said. "My thoughts and prayers will remain with them always."

In a response posted on the trustees' website, Peetz thanked Garban for his years of service to Penn State.

ACROSS THE NATION

6 killed in chain-reaction crash in NY work zone

ANTWERP, N.Y. (AP)—An SUV burst into flames and six people were killed on a northern New York road Thursday when a tractor-trailer rear-ended a vehicle in a work zone and caused a chain-reaction crash, police said. Five of the people killed were trapped in an SUV when it was struck and burst into flames. State police identified the driver as Laurie Dana, 42, an elementary school speech therapist from Lawrence, a rural town about 60 miles northwest of the crash site and 15 miles south of the Canadian border. Also in the vehicle were her two daughters, Caitlyn, 14, and Lauryn, 11, and her mother-in-law, Janet Dana, 69. The fifth victim was Shannon Planty, 14, a friend of Catelyn.

US forecast: Hot, dry weather to linger

WASHINGTON (AP)—U.S. government weather forecasters predict the unusually hot dry weather that has gripped much of the nation will linger into autumn, especially for the parched Midwest heartland. The National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration's outlook for August through October shows that nearly every state likely will have hotter than normal temperatures. Much of the Midwest is likely to be drier than normal, too. The forecast, issued Thursday, indicates a high probability for little rain for all or parts of 15 states for August. The region encompasses Illinois, Indiana, Missouri and Iowa and the states generally surrounding them. The outlook improves a bit over three months, shrinking to just eight states.

Service members to march in gay pride parade

CAMP PENDLETON, Calif. (AP)—The Defense Department on Thursday announced it is allowing service members to march in uniform in a gay pride parade for the first time in U.S. history. In a memorandum sent to all its branches, the department said it was making the allowance for San Diego's gay pride parade on Saturday even though its policy generally bars troops from marching in uniform in parades. The Defense Department said it did so because organizers had encouraged military personnel to march in their uniform and the event was getting national attention.

Asia

British PM: Afghan and Pakistan in joint fight

KABUL, Afghanistan (AP)—British Prime Minister David Cameron called on Afghanistan and Pakistan on Thursday to make common cause against insurgents in the two countries' border zone. He spoke in Kabul in a visit aimed at adding British weight to American diplomatic attempts to get Pakistan to become more cooperative in ending the Afghan war.

Cross-border fighting and stalled negotiations with the Taliban were the main topics of discussion at a three-way meeting between Pakistani Prime Minister Raja Pervaiz Ashraf, Afghan President Hamid Karzai and Cameron.

The British, U.S. and Afghan governments have long criticized Pakistan for not doing enough to stop cross-border attacks. Many insurgents groups are based in safe havens in Pakistan's lawless tribal areas along the Afghan border. Islamabad also charges that insurgents cross the border from the Afghan side and attack Pakistani security forces.

"The terrorists that are trying to wreck Afghanistan are by and large the same terrorists that are trying to wreck Pakistan," Cameron said. "We should be together in one single fight."

Britain's involvement could help America's effort to push Pakistan to crack down on the safe havens and also to use its connections with some Taliban leaders to promote peace talks. Pakistan has longstanding historical ties with Britain but its relationship with Washington has been rocky at best, with their lowest point coming late last year after American airstrikes killed 24 Pakistani soldiers near the border.

AP

Pakistani Prime Minister Raja Pervaiz Ashraf, left, joins hand with Afghan President Hamid Karzai, center, and British Prime Minister David Cameron, right, ahead of a trilateral meeting at the presidential palace in Kabul, Afghanistan, Thursday, July 19, 2012.

Britain also sees the border areas as a main base for militants planning attacks against the West, although Cameron said that less than half of terrorist plots against Britain now originate from Pakistan's border regions—down from two-thirds as recently as 2010. Three men were charged Wednesday in London with travelling to Pakistan for terrorist training.

"We are making progress, and this is our fight as much as your fight and the Pakistanis' fight," Cameron said.

A joint statement issued after the three leaders met said they would work together to eliminate terrorism and agreed that peace in Afghanistan would help Pakistan's security. Pakistan is facing its own Islamic insurgency and has been fighting militant groups, mostly in its tribal areas.

Pakistan's Ashraf, who took office last month, and Karzai also held separate talks together.

In the statement, Karzai stressed the need for a political solution to end a war that has lasted more than 10 years, and said talks should include the Taliban and other insurgent groups. It added that the talks should be led by Afghanistan, facilitated by Pakistan and supported by Britain and other countries.

The Taliban has refused peace talks with Karzai, calling him a puppet of the United States. Instead, they have held talks directly with American officials. They broke off talks earlier this year, saying the U.S. reneged on a promise to release Afghan prisoners from Guantanamo Bay. The talks have so far shown no signs of restarting.

Pakistan is seen as key to breaking this impasse because of its historical ties with the Taliban.

"The peace process is the most important of our pursuits for Afghanistan. It remains the highest priority," Karzai said.

Karzai said having talks among the leaders of Pakistan, Afghanistan and Britain was Cameron's idea and that there had been minister-level meetings among representatives of the three countries.

"Today is the first time that we are sitting at the high-level of the leaders," Karzai said. "The purpose of the meeting is to find an effective way to battle against terrorism and what role Pakistan can play now in the security situation in the region and the peace process."

Cameron had for some time hoped to bring together Pakistan and Afghanistan's leaders in an effort to boost trust between the two sides. Officials hope Thursday's talks will lead to more regular meetings between Karzai, Ashraf and their militaries to work on jointly tackling insurgents.

The Kabul meeting marked the end of Cameron's two-day visit to Afghanistan, intended to guide decisions on how fast Britain will withdraw its 9,500 troops before international forces leave by the end of 2014.

In separate talks with Karzai, Cameron discussed the drawdown. He also planned to stress the need for "credible, inclusive and nationwide" presidential elections in 2014, his spokeswoman said, on customary condition of anonymity in line with policy.

Cameron also met in Kabul with the top U.S. commander in Afghanistan, Gen. John Allen, who gave him a positive message on the country's overall security picture as they discussed recent violence in northeastern Afghanistan.

China rejects artist's lawsuit against tax office

BEIJING (AP)—A Beijing court on Friday rejected artist Ai Weiwei's lawsuit against an agency that imposed a more than $2 million fine on his company for tax evasion, a case he says is part of an intimidation campaign to stop him from criticizing the government.

Ai, an internationally renowned artist detained for three months last year after making remarks critical of the government, was barred from the court where the ruling was announced.

"Today's verdict means that after 60 years of the founding of our nation, we still lack the basic legal procedures, the truth is not respected, and they do not give taxpayers or citizens any rights to defend oneself," Ai told reporters at his studio. "The whole legal system is in a dark state right now."

His lawyer Pu Zhiqiang said the court ruled that authorities used legal procedures in their case against Ai's design company, Beijing Fake Cultural Development Ltd. Pu said the ruling was made "totally without reason."

Security was heavy outside the Chaoyang District Court. Plainclothes and uniformed police were blocking roads and forcing reporters and diplomats to leave the area.

Shortly after Ai's release from detention last year, the Beijing tax bureau ordered Beijing Fake Cultural Development to pay 15 million yuan ($2.4 million) in back taxes and fines.

AP

Dissident artist Ai Weiwei listens as his lawyer announces over a speakerphone the verdict of Ai's lawsuit against the Beijing tax authorities in Beijing Friday, July 20, 2012.

State media said Ai confessed to tax evasion beforehis release, but activists interpreted the penalty as punishment for his criticism of the authoritarian government. Chinese authorities have tried to silence other critics by accusing them of tax violations or other nonpolitical crimes.

The company filed a lawsuit accusing the tax bureau of violating laws in handling witnesses, evidence and company accounts in the case.

Ai's wife, Lu Qing, the legal representative of Beijing Fake Cultural Development, was allowed into the court along with Pu and another lawyer.

Pu said the company will appeal the court's decision.

"We have lost this lawsuit but we believe that our action in reality can serve as a symbol of the awakening of civil consciousness," Pu said. "We do not recognize the legality of the ruling."

About a dozen supporters gathered at a nearby intersection while they waited for the verdict. Du Yanlin, a tax lawyer who advises Ai, wore a gray T-shirt with the artist's name printed on it in bold characters and was prevented by police from getting close to the courthouse.

Du said the court's ruling came as no surprise.

"Through this lawsuit we can clearly recognize what condition the Chinese judicial system is in. We can more clearly understand what Ai Weiwei's situation is," Du said. "He still has no freedom. He still can't have justice."

Indian legislators vote for next president

NEW DELHI (AP)—Thousands of national and state legislators on Thursday were selecting India's next president, a largely ceremonial role expected to go to the governing Congress Party's former finance minister.

Pranab Mukherjee has been traveling the country for weeks to shore up support among the 4,896-member electoral college against his main competition, opposition candidate and former Parliament speaker Purno Agitok Sangma. Results are expected Sunday.

Prime Minister Manmohan Singh, Congress Party chief Sonia Gandhi and Mukherjee waved cheerfully at news cameras as they cast their ballots in New Delhi.

The 76-year-old Mukherjee has been a Congress Party stalwart since 1969 and a key troubleshooter in managing its fractious coalitions.

At different times he has served as foreign minister, defense minister and finance minister, the latter twice. His latest term controlling the finance portfolio from 2009 was marred by spiraling growth, tumbling currency and rising inflation. India's economic growth of 5.3 percent in the last quarter was the slowest in nine years.

Many business leaders were relieved by his resignation last month as finance minister, blaming him for blocking reforms and undermining foreign investment. The prime minister, upon taking control of the ministry, urged finance officials to "revive the animal spirit" in India's economy, implying that Mukherjee had somehow suppressed it.

The new president will be replacing India's first female president, Pratibha Devisingh Patil, whose five-year term ends on Tuesday.

TEPCO president vows to overcome public distrust

TOKYO (AP)—The new head of the operator of Japan's crippled nuclear plant has vowed to try to overcome deep public distrust in his company.

But Tokyo Electric Power Co. President Naomi Hirose also says he's not ready to agree with a parliamentary panel's conclusion that cozy ties between the government and industry were to blame for last year's nuclear disaster.

Hirose told journalists Thursday that the company would re-examine the panel's report. He said if the report differs sharply from TEPCO's own findings, it might investigate further.

Hirose acknowledged that TEPCO is accused of being secretive, and promised to "not receive that kind of criticism in the future."

But he offered few concrete steps on how to win back public confidence shattered by the disaster at the tsunami-hit Fukushima Dai-ichi plant.

World

Russia and China again veto Syria resolution

UNITED NATIONS (AP)—Russia and China again vetoed a Western-backed U.N. resolution Thursday aimed at pressuring President Bashar Assad's government to end the escalating civil war in Syria, sparking dire warnings of even greater bloodshed and spillover to the wider region.

The 11-2 vote, with two abstentions from South Africa and Pakistan, was the third double veto of a resolution addressing the Syria crisis, now in its 17th month, by Damascus' most important allies.

The key stumbling block was the West's insistence that a new resolution include the threat of non-military sanctions to step up pressure against Assad's regime. The sanctions are under Chapter 7 of the U.N. Charter, which also includes provisions authorizing the use of force, but no force was authorized in the British draft.

Russia's U.N. Ambassador Vitaly Churkin said the resolution should never have been put to a vote because the sponsors knew it had no chance of adoption.

"We simply cannot accept a document under Chapter 7, one which would open the path for the pressure of sanctions and further to external military involvement in Syrian domestic affairs," he said.

The defeat leaves in limbo the future of the 300-strong U.N. observer mission in Syria, which was forced to suspend operations because of the intensified fighting. Its mandate, to monitor a cease-fire and implementation of international envoy Kofi Annan's six-point peace plan, expires Friday.

AP

Members of the United Nations Security Council listen to Syria's U.N. Ambassador Bashar Ja'afari during a Security Council meeting on the situation in Syria at United Nations headquarters Thursday, July 19, 2012.

Britain's U.N. Ambassador Mark Lyall Grant, who sponsored the Western-backed draft, said he had circulated a new draft resolution that would extend the mission of the unarmed observers one last time, for a final 30 days. A copy of the draft obtained by the AP showed the mission would continue only if the council confirmed that Assad's government had pulled artillery and heavy weapons back from the cities and sent his troops back to barracks.

Pakistani circulated a rival draft that would extend the mission for 45 days, with the possibility of further renewals.

After closed council consultations late Thursday, Churkin emerged visibly upset and said the British draft was imposing political conditions on the mission's continuation. He said Russia would oppose that and would support the Pakistani text.

Churkin said he expects the council to vote on both drafts Friday morning.

Lyall Grant said he was "appalled" at the third double veto of a resolution aimed at bringing an end to the violence in Syria and creating conditions for political talks. He called Russia's argument that the resolution would allow for military intervention "irrational," saying Article 41 deals only with non-military sanctions "and could not, therefore, be construed as a precursor to military intervention."

Syria's Assad appears on TV after bombing

BEIRUT (AP)—Syrian President Bashar Assad made his first appearance Thursday since a bomb killed some of his top lieutenants, looking calm and composed on state TV even as his forces turned parts of Damascus into combat zones and rebels seized two of the country's border crossings.

The unprecedented attack on Assad's inner circle Wednesday, along with the government's inability to crush the rebels after five days of intense clashes in the Syrian capital, point to an unraveling of his grip on power after 16 months of violence.

"It is a war going on here, literally a war," said a 25-year-old woman in the Muhajereen neighborhood. The sounds of battle had kept her up all night and she stayed home from work because she feared random gunfire, she added.

"It reminded me of that night when the Americans shelled Baghdad nine years ago," said the woman, who spoke on condition of anonymity because she feared for her safety. "I was watching it on TV, but today I'm living a very similar situation."

Even though Assad's powerful military remains mostly loyal—suggesting a total collapse may not be imminent—the rebels appeared to be making startling gains as the civil war intensified.

Besides the fighting in Damascus, about a half-dozen rebels took over a Syrian border crossing near the Iraqi town of Qaim, said Iraqi army Brig. General Qassim al-Dulaimi. There are four major border posts with Iraq.

Rebels overtook a Syrian army outpost near the Syrian-Iraq border after clashes that killed 21 Syrian soldiers, he added.

In addition, amateur video posted online showed rebels taking over the Bab al-Hawa border crossing with Turkey, where they stomped on portraits of Assad. The Associated Press could not independently verify the video because the government bars most media from working independently in the country.

Police seek bomber identity, Israel blames Iran

BURGAS, Bulgaria (AP)—He looked like any other impatient tourist checking the big board at airport arrivals: a lanky, long-haired man in a baseball cap with his hands in the pockets of his plaid Bermuda shorts, a bulky backpack hanging from his shoulders.

Minutes later, authorities say, the man, filmed by security cameras at the Burgas airport, would board a bus filled with young Israeli tourists and blow himself up, killing six others as well. Authorities looked Thursday for clues as to who he was, using his fingerprints, his DNA and his fake Michigan driver's license.

Israel was quick to blame Iran and its Lebanese ally Hezbollah for the attack and a U.S. official told The Associated Press on Thursday night that Hezbollah was believed to be behind the attack. The official spoke on condition of anonymity because it was a sensitive intelligence issue.

The victims included the Bulgarian bus driver and five Israelis, including a pregnant woman.

Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu said the bombing "was carried out by Hezbollah, the long arm of Iran." Iranian Foreign Ministry spokesman Ramin Mehmanparast called the accusation "baseless," saying it was aimed at diverting world attention from Israel's role in the assassination of Iranian nuclear scientists.

Israel has attributed a series of attacks on its citizens around the world in recent months to Iran and its Shiite proxies, threatening to escalate a shadow war between the two arch-enemies that has escalated over Israeli allegations that the Iranians are trying to build nuclear weapons.

The attack occurred shortly after the Israelis boarded a bus outside the airport in the Black Sea resort town of Burgas, a popular destination for Israeli tourists—particularly for high school graduates before they are drafted into military service. Burgas is about 400 kilometers (250 miles) east of the capital, Sofia.

On Thursday, Bulgarian television aired security camera footage showing the suspected bomber wandering in and out of the terminal shortly before the blast. He was dressed as a tourist himself, wearing a baseball cap, T-shirt, plaid shorts and sneakers with short white socks. He carried a large backpack with wheels.

FAMINE ANNIVERSARY:

Somalis dying on food walks

DOLO, Somalia (AP)—The long, dusty walks from hungry homes to far-away refugee camps are again claiming lives in Somalia one year after up to 100,000 people died in the country's worst famine in generations.

Two lethal factors are again combining to send families fleeing from their homes: Too little rain and too many guns.

Enough rain did fall in Somalia this year to prevent a repeat of last year's massive famine, but it wasn't enough to keep everyone fed. In addition, al-Shabab militants who have been forced out of larger cities are infiltrating smaller towns where they are demanding payments from families in money, livestock or children, residents said.

The weekslong walks to refugee camps made by hundreds of thousands of Somalis last year turned sandy paths into roads of death for the famine's weakest victims. Refugees in Dolo are telling similar heartbreaking tales of weak children being left behind to die. One baby being carried on her mother's back in recent weeks died during the walk, a doctor said.

In a cruel replay of last year's hunger marches, many families who left refugee camps as the crisis eased this year went home, attempted to plant food but are now returning to the stick-hut camps.

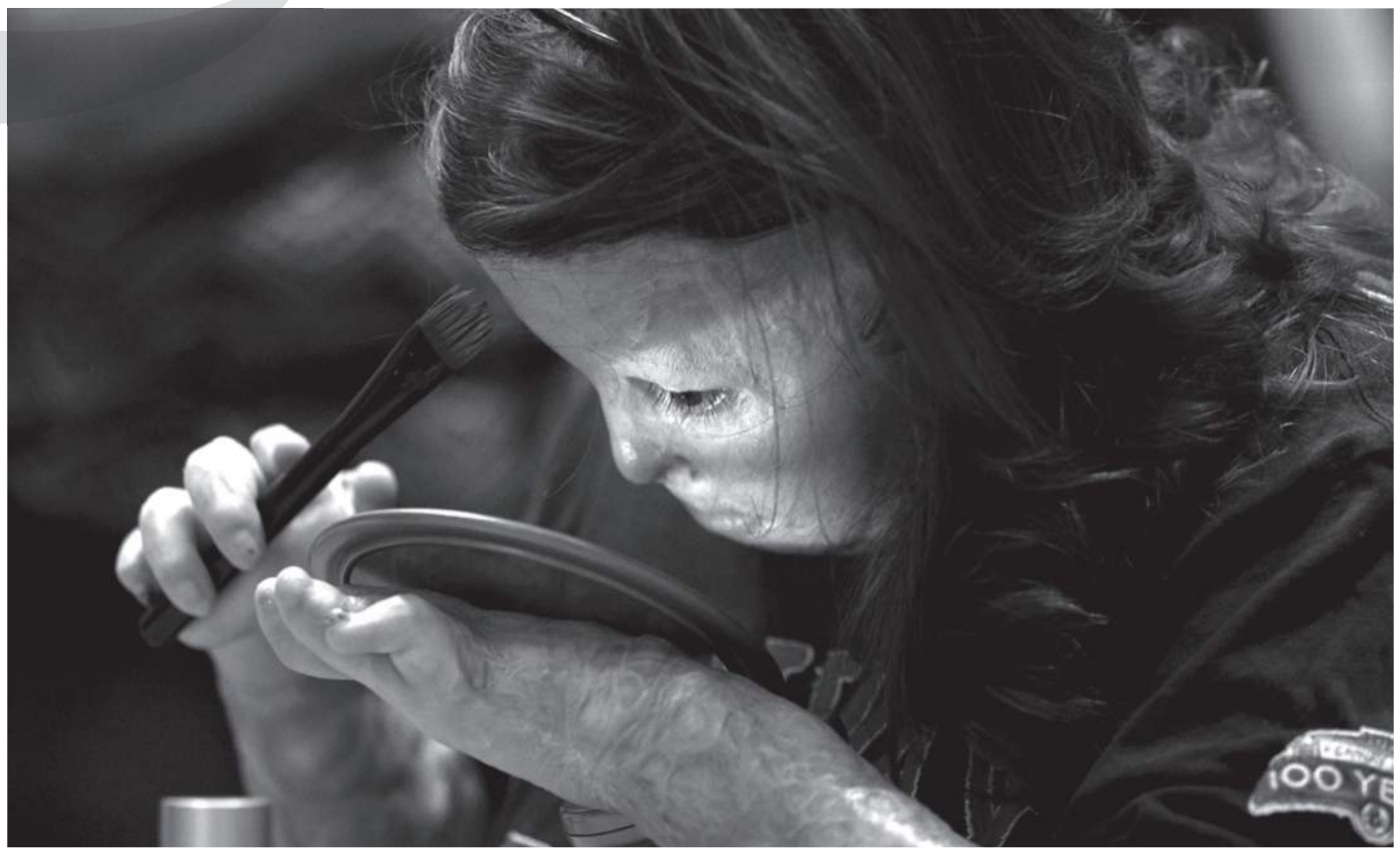
"Before we were hoping for a good rain. But we got very little," said Ali Ganoon Abdi Rahman, a 75-year-old who walked nine days with his wife, daughter and four grandchildren. They arrived in Dolo earlier this week.

Rahman said that al-Shabab militants are active in his village in the Bay region of Somalia, but he hopes to return. "We came here because of hunger and security. Let these two things be sorted then we will go back."

Young Style

Severely burned girls learn to cope at retreat

GILLIAN FLACCUS
ASSOCIATED PRESS



AP

In this June 22, 2012, photo, Anastaza Pack, 17, looks in the mirror as she puts on make-up at the Angel Faces retreat in Corona, Calif. A

CORONA, Calif. (AP)—The room rings out with the cruel nicknames that have haunted the teenagers for years: Crusty crab. Burnt toast. Snake skin. Freddy Krueger's daughter. Mutant. Scarface.

For the first time, it's the burn victims themselves who are shouting them.

The exercise is emotionally excruciating but also empowering for these girls, who come from all over the world to attend Angel Faces, an annual retreat east of Los Angeles. Some were injured as infants; others arrive just months after a devastating accident. Several girls lost a parent or a sibling in the disaster that maimed them.

The program uses group counseling, role playing and art therapy to heal emotional scars and teach strategies to cope with never-ending teasing, staring and probing questions. The retreat's softer side boosts body image with massages, facials, hair styling and makeovers by a professional cosmetologist who teaches the girls how to use specialty make-up to minimize their scars.

For participant Angela Brady, the emotional and physical damage runs deep. The 18-year-old from Rockford, Ill., was severely burned at 3 months when her toddler brother set the curtains ablaze while her mother was passed out from a drug overdose.

The wisp of a girl hides behind the tresses of the long, brown wig that substitutes for hair and shuns make-up that could redraw her missing eyebrows. A web of thick scar tissue crisscrosses her upper face. She has had more than 60 reconstructive surgeries, including one that used one of her ribs to replace bone in her forehead.

"I only have one picture that was when I was first born when I had no burns. I do look at it sometimes and think about what I could have been like but I don't like to think about that, because I can't do anything about it and I can't change it," said Brady, who was removed from her biological mother and adopted at age 3.

"After being here, I realized that only a few people are picked for this journey—and I was one of them," she said.

Founder Lesia Cartelli conceived of Angel Faces after running a more traditional "burn camp" in San Diego for years. The camp focused on fun without getting at the trauma beneath the scars. Cartelli also grew frustrated with the self-pity that made campers see themselves only as burn victims and nothing more.

"One day I saw three teenage girls walk by and I thought, `I'm failing,'" Cartelli recalled. "They were going to go home the next day and come Monday, those three teenage girls were going back to school, back to rejection, back to staring, back to the unwanted questions. They need to know, `How do I respond to somebody who's staring at me? How am I going to get my self-esteem back or get it, period?'"

Cartelli offers the week-long program to fewer than two dozen girls once a year. They must complete a 14-page application and fundraising and donations cover the $3,500 it costs to bring each of them to the spa retreat in Corona, about an hour from Los Angeles. Participants can attend for up to three years and many return as volunteers into their 20s.

The program, now in its ninth year, attracts teens from around the country and as far away as Mexico and England. Most have spent months in the hospital and undergone dozens of surgeries but never opened up about their injuries or talked about what happened.

"We spend the first couple of days really digging into the trauma. How did it happen? Where did it happen? What went on? Who was there? Who do you need to forgive? Is it yourself?" Cartelli said. "No one's asked these questions in a loving environment. It's tough. It's tough on us to watch it and it's tough on the girls."

During one role playing exercise, Rosa Carrier struggled to respond to a volunteer posing as a stranger who asked probing questions about her injuries from a childhood fire.

The 16-year-old from Bristol, Tenn., wears a long-sleeved jacket even when it's warm to hide scars on her arms. Cartelli urged her to provide details about her accident to make her seem less like a victim and turn the stranger's teasing into sympathy.

"Do you see how when you change the language, you have compassion for that little girl? That girl who was you, who was burned in a house fire?" Cartelli asked, after she was done, pointing a finger at the teen's heart. Suddenly, Carrier put her face in her hands and began to sob on Cartelli's shoulder.

Carrier's worst scarring was on her arms, but a handful of the teens are so badly burned that wigs cover their scalps and thick, twisting marks are reminders of flames that chewed into their faces, legs and arms—in a few cases even burning away fingers.

Katie Riopka was one of the few with recent burns and without serious facial scarring.

The 20-year-old art student from San Dimas, Calif., was burned over 40 percent of her body on Halloween when the zombie costume she was making for a trick-or-treat trip to Hollywood caught fire. Flames jumped from a sweater she was singeing to the red paint on her costume, scorching away a moon-and-stars tattoo behind her ear.

She spent three weeks in a medically induced coma and two months in the hospital. She still wears a full-body black compression suit and gloves to speed healing and can't go in the sun.

Before the retreat, Riopka tried to deal with her emotions through art. At one point, she threw red paint on the ground and stomped on it in anger and frustration. Angel Faces showed her she is not alone and taught her how to cope with stares and questions.

She said she now sees her art as a metaphor for her life and believes she was burned for a reason. The flames scorched her back but didn't touch her favorite tattoo—a Hebrew script reading "I can do anything with God" inked along her spine.

"Sometimes the mistake in your painting is the most interesting part of the painting and I kind of look at life like that," Riopka said. "I actually realized that if I could go back to Halloween, I wouldn't change anything. You realize how strong you really are and we all know we have a purpose now—all of us."

Doctors use eggs to reverse egg allergies in kids

By MARILYNN MARCHIONE
AP CHIEF MEDICAL WRITER

First peanuts, now eggs. Doctors have reversed allergies in some children and teens by giving them tiny daily doses of problem foods, gradually training their immune systems to accept them.

In the best test of this yet, about a dozen kids were able to overcome allergies to eggs, one of the most ubiquitous foods, lurking in everything from pasta and veggie burgers to mayonnaise and even marshmallows. Some of the same doctors used a similar approach on several kids with peanut allergies a few years ago.

Don't try this yourself, though. It takes special products, a year or more and close supervision because severe reactions remain a risk, say doctors involved in the study, published in Thursday's New England Journal of Medicine.

"This experimental therapy can safely be done only by properly trained physicians," says a statement from Dr. Anthony Fauci, director of the National Institute of Allergy and Infectious Diseases, the federal agency that sponsored the study.

It didn't work for everyone, and some dropped out of the study because of allergic reactions. But the results "really do show there is promise for future treatment" and should be tested now in a wider group of kids, said the study's leader, Dr. A. Wesley Burks, pediatrics chief at the University of North Carolina, Chapel Hill.

More than 2 percent of young children have egg allergies, suffering wheezing and tight throats or even life-threatening reactions if they eat any egg, Burks said. Many will outgrow this by age 4 or 5, and more will by the time they are teens, but 10 to 20 percent never do. The big worry is that these kids will eat eggs as an ingredient in a food they don't realize contains them, and have a severe reaction. Training a child's immune system to tolerate even small amounts of egg to prevent this was the goal of the study.

It enrolled 55 children ages 5 to 18. Forty were given tiny daily amounts of powdered egg white, the part that usually causes the allergy. The other 15 were given cornstarch—a dummy treatment—for comparison. The amounts were increased every two weeks until kids in the treatment group were eating about one third of an egg each day.

They periodically went to their doctors to try eating eggs. They failed the test if a doctor could see any symptoms such as wheezing.

At about a year, none receiving the dummy treatment passed the egg challenge. Those on the egg white powder fared better.

"At the end of the year, half of them passed. At the end of two years, 75 percent of them passed," Burks said.

Next, he went a step further, to see if participants could maintain tolerance without the daily powder. Those who passed the second test stopped using the powder, avoided eggs entirely for four to six weeks, then tried eating eggs again as they wished. Eleven of the 30 kids were able to do this with no problem.

The treatment worked for 10-year-old Nicholas Redmond of Huntersville, N.C., near Charlotte. Avoiding eggs has been "a huge problem," said his father, Chris Redmond. Now Nicholas has some egg nearly every day to maintain his tolerance, which his father finds terribly ironic.

"You spend 2 1/2 years avoiding eggs" and now have to make sure he gets some, Chris Redmond said.

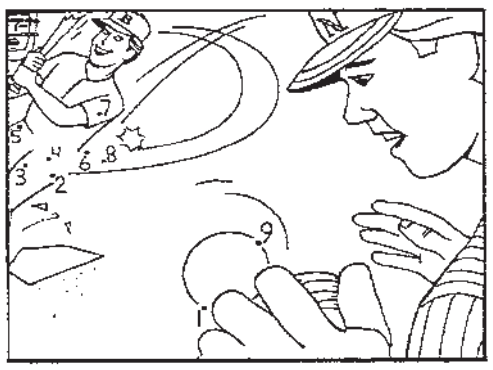
Nicholas said the hardest part of his allergy was turning down birthday treats at school.

"I would say `no thank you' and I had this little treat box with stuff filled for class parties," he said.

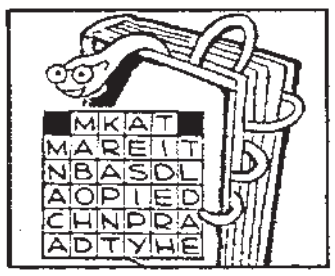
Now, "I can have eggs in cake and cookies"—if they don't contain peanuts, he said. He's also allergic to those, and will start sensitization therapy for peanuts next month.

Junior Whirl

by Hal Kaufman



COMIN' ATCHA! Heads up, pitcher, step aside. To complete picture, draw straight lines from dot 1 to dot 2, 3, etc.



SNAKES ALIVE EXERCISE

LET'S SEE how many of the following snakes you can find in the diagram at left:

Asp, boa, adder, cobra, mamba, krait, python, rattler, anaconda, copperhead.

Start anywhere, use the king's move as in chess, which is one square at a time in any direction — horizontally, vertically or diagonally. Individual letters may be used just once in each name.

See if you can find at least six of the 10 names listed within two minutes.

Remember, names are to be found by moving letter to letter in adjacent squares of the diagram.

Don't get rattled!

PERSONAL AD! "My name is Ben. I am lonely and would like to meet a plain, quiet girl named Annie. Object: matrimony." Any idea why this might be a good match?

Ben would be Ben-effed and Annie would be Annie-mated.

SUM TOTALS! Sums of numbers in most magic number squares total the same horizontally, vertically and diagonally. Numbers of the magic square at right not only total the same — 78 — in those directions, but also total 78 in numerous other four-block combinations.

Just for fun, see if you can find at least 10 more four-block combos that total 78.

One set of four, for example, are four corner squares.

Magic Square: Corner squares (1); center foursome (1); corner foursomes (4); mid-side sets of two (2); opposite two-somes of diagonals (2); etc.

40	10	20	8
7	21	9	41
12	42	6	18
19	5	43	11

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Strange BUT TRUE

by Samantha Weaver

■ It was beloved American comedian and film star Groucho Marx who made the following sage observation: "There's one way to find out if a man is honest—ask him. If he says 'Yes,' you know he is a crook."

■ The ancient Egyptians were known to use crocodile dung as a contraceptive.

■ You may be surprised to learn that when the hit 1950s TV show "I Love Lucy" had its premiere, Lucille Ball was already 40 years old.

■ Talk about sneaky: In order to get a photo of Bing Crosby in his coffin, The National Enquirer tabloid had a reporter dress as a priest and sneak into the private funeral service. To top it off, on his way out of the service, the disguised journalist told ABC reporter Geraldo Rivera not to pester the family at such a sensitive moment.

■ Every year, about $500 million is spent on beads for Mardi Gras.

■ Ever wonder how the statuette taken home by winners of the Academy Awards got its nickname? Evidently, in 1931 a secretary at the Academy of Motion Picture Arts and Sciences saw the statuette for the first time and exclaimed, "Why, he reminds me of my Uncle Oscar!" The comment struck the fancy of a reporter who was present, and he put it in a story about the awards, and the name stuck.

■ Are you acersecomic? If your hair has never been cut, you are.

■ Confederate Gen. Robert E. Lee was not himself a slave owner. He reportedly did not believe in the institution of slavery.

■ If this is an average week, three manmade artifacts hurtling into the atmosphere from space will crash into the Earth.

■ ■ ■

Thought for the Day: "The world is round; it has no point."—Adrienne E. Gusoff

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MAGIC MAZE ● BREAD —

X	U	Q	M	I	E	A	W	T	P	L	I	E	B	X
U	Q	N	J	G	D	Z	W	T	Q	N	K	H	D	A
X	U	R	P	M	J	G	D	D	A	X	V	S	Q	N
K	S	I	F	D	A	L	X	V	T	Q	O	M	J	H
F	C	B	A	Y	O	W	I	U	G	R	P	H	N	L
J	H	A	M	M	R	E	N	N	I	W	G	F	D	B
Z	X	S	A	U	K	N	I	F	E	U	V	T	R	Q
O	M	K	N	C	R	D	R	A	O	B	X	K	I	H
F	E	E	I	I	D	C	N	D	D	O	B	Z	Y	W
R	E	T	T	U	B	D	N	A	B	W	V	T	R	Q
O	S	N	P	L	K	I	H	F	P	L	D	C	A	Z

Find the listed words in the diagram. They run in all directions - forward, backward, up, down and diagonally.

And butter	Bowl	Knife	Pan
Basket	Box	Line	Pudding
Bin	Crumbs	Maker	Stick
Board	Dough	Mold	

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GO FIGURE! by Linda Thistle

The idea of Go Figure is to arrive at the figures given at the bottom and right-hand columns of the diagram by following the arithmetic signs in the order they are given (that is, from left to right and top to bottom). Use only the numbers below the diagram to complete its blank squares and use each of the nine numbers only once.

DIFFICULTY: ★

★ Moderate ★★ Difficult
★★★ GO FIGURE!

	×		+		20			
+		÷		+				
	×		−		17			
×		+		÷				
	−		×		12			
30		2		5				

1 2 3 4 5 6 6 7 8

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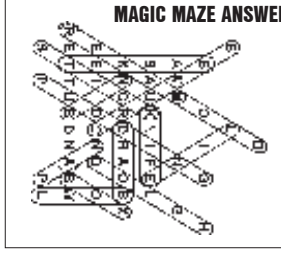
MAGIC MAZE ANSWER



GO FIGURE ANSWER

2	×	6	+	8	20
+		÷		+	
4	×	6	−	7	17
+		÷		+	
5	−	1	×	3	12
30		2		5	

KRAIT — ↓

Hot cars and pets can be deadly mix

Paw's corner by Sam Mazzotta

DEAR PAW'S CORNER: I can't leave my dog "Shadie" alone in the house, so I have to take her with me when I go shopping. How long can I keep her inside my car before it gets too hot? My friend says 20 minutes, if I keep the windows cracked a little. —Danielle F., Atlanta

DEAR DANIELLE: How about never? A parked car in the summer heat, even with the windows open a bit to let in airflow, can quickly heat up to extreme temperatures. Neither pets nor humans can stand the quick rise in temperature—so being left in a parked car can prove fatal.

If you're planning to go out for a few minutes to pick up some groceries or handle a quick errand, leave Shadie at home. Your dog should be able to handle a short period without you. If Shadie doesn't handle it well, such as getting agitated, chewing up furniture or shoes, there are training solutions to solve that problem.

Another solution, if you must bring your dog, is to bring along a trustworthy friend who is willing to sit in the car with the dog, with the motor running and the air conditioner on to keep it cool. Your friend will need to monitor Shadie while you shop. But this has its own pitfalls—I don't know many people willing to wait around while their friend is in the store.

Again, I can't stress enough how important it is to not leave Shadie alone in the car, for even a few minutes. She easily could suffer heat exhaustion or stroke. Instead, invest some time helping to resolve Shadie's separation anxiety so she'll be happy and healthy at home.

■ ■ ■

Send your questions or comments to ask@pawscorner.com, or write to Paw's Corner, c/o King Features Weekly Service, P.O. Box 536475, Orlando, FL 32853-6475. For more pet care-related advice and information, visit www.pawscorner.com.

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Summer fun with seashore shells

Donna's Day Creative family fun

by Donna Erickson

Hunting for treasures at low tide along a favorite beach is one of life's simple pleasures for tots, teens and adults alike. There's so much to see, smell and discover in nature's giant sandbox—scampering crabs, colorful seaweed, seagulls, jellyfish (they may sting you!) and all those shells. If you're lucky, you'll find lots and lots of shells to hand pick and bring back home for a lasting souvenir of the day.

Here are some simple lessons and activities that you can do with your young kids and grandkids when you get home. For those who aren't hitting one of the coasts this summer, look for bags or baskets full of shells at neighborhood tag sales and thrift stores. Some specialty toy and craft stores sell them, too.

CLEAN

If you have just collected shells at a beach, wash them in a bucket with mild detergent and set them out in the sun on a towel to dry. Use old toothbrushes to scrub the sand out of crevices.

Let school-age kids try a science experiment with broken pieces. Place a piece in a jar and cover the piece with vinegar. Set overnight. Did it disappear? Explain that shells are composed of calcium carbonate. The acid in the vinegar dissolves the compound.

EXAMINE

Sort them by type in piles, and find their names online or in a field guide. Challenge your preschooler to arrange the shells from each pile in rows from largest to smallest.

Talk about how the surfaces feel and use adjectives to describe colors and features. Use a magnifying glass to observe details. You might be surprised to discover the colors of the rainbow inside some. Abalone shells have brilliant, rainbow-like hues.

PUT SEASHELLS ON DISPLAY

Create a bowl full of memories, and keep it on an end table or on the center of your dining-room table for everyone to see. For a dramatic display, use a large, low pasta serving dish with edges. Fill it half-full with clean sand, and arrange shells and other favorite mini seashore finds on top.

Set flat shells such as scallops or clams upright in the sand. For added attractions, tuck in a travel postcard, a trip photo in a small Lucite frame and a tiny sailboat or other purchase from a souvenir shop.

■ ■ ■

Donna Erickson's award-winning series "Donna's Day" is airing on public television nationwide. To find more of her creative family recipes and activities, visit www.donnasday.com and link to the NEW Donna's Day Facebook fan page. Her latest book is "Donna Erickson's Fabulous Funstuff for Families."

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Good Housekeeping

Bring your interior design outdoors

By LORI JOHNSTON
THE ATLANTA JOURNAL-CONSTITUTION

ATLANTA—Several years ago, Michael and Lillie Axelrod decided they wanted to redo the outdoor space of their Sandy Springs, Ga., home. They had the deck removed and added a screened-in porch. The next step was to call their go-to interior designer for help.

Susan E. Miles of Allegro Interiors came up with a plan to create a functional yet contemporary-styled outdoor space where the Axelrods could gather with family and friends.

"We had a vague idea of what we wanted to do," said Michael Axelrod, a business consultant and retired attorney. "But we needed help executing that vision."

Using a variety of materials to create a stylish, livable space, Miles selected porcelain tile for the floor, a stained concrete top for the dining table and dining chairs made of brushed lacquered aluminum. She also coordinated the Sunbrella fabrics for the sofas and chairs with the other accessories, including wall sconces and ceiling fans.

The Axelrods were pleased with their new room. But they aren't alone in wanting to extend the comfort and luxury of their homes to the great outdoors.

The growing "leisure lifestyle" industry is now a $6.2 billion industry in the United States, up 5.4 percent from 10 years ago, according to the Hearth, Patio and Barbecue Association, a trade group in Virginia.

Outdoor spaces, such as decks, patios and porches, can add value to a home. But they take some planning, too. To create a space that is right for you, consider these tips and trends from various sources, including the HPBA, plus Atlanta-area Allegro Interiors, Kolo Collection and AuthenTeak.

ATLANTA JOURNAL-CONSTITUTION/MCT
Teak furniture from Kingsley-Bate includes the Chelsea four-seat Chat Set featuring a round table.

TIPS

■ Determine the size and how you will use the outdoor space (cooking, relaxing, entertaining) before you shop for furniture and accessories.

■ Allow the outdoor space to be a natural extension of your home's interior design.

■ Research products online and check products at discount and home stores, plus specialty outdoor retailers. Sit on couches and chairs to determine comfort.

■ Make sure furnishings complement the exterior of the house as well as the outside trim, stucco or brick colors.

■ Select furniture frames made of brushed aluminum, cast aluminum, solid wrought iron or weather-resistant wicker.

■ Use worry-free fabrics, such as Sunbrella, for your upholstered pieces. The fabric dries quickly and is easy to clean. It also resists mildew and fading.

■ Consider canvas awnings and umbrellas—or shades to control sun.

■ Families might prefer bench seating because one bench can seat several children. Benches also are more economical than individual chairs.

■ Choose rugs made from acrylic or olefin. They are easy to care for and resist fading.

■ Create an outdoor room over a few years to accommodate your wish list if you are on a budget. During the first year, install the hearth products and define grilling and eating areas.

TRENDS

■ Outdoor fireplaces, water features and grills (and outdoor kitchens) provide natural gathering spots and can be handsome focal points for an outdoor area.

■ Larger decks and multiple conversation areas are popular.

■ Sophisticated lighting, such as sconces, chandeliers and lamps, help create a mood and allow you to spend more time outdoors.

■ Decorative low-voltage lighting, wired into the deck steps and posts or along pathways, adds an element of safety.

■ Draperies made from indoor-outdoor fabrics attached to stone or wood columns create a sense of intimacy .

■ Gray is a popular color group in outdoor furniture and fabrics in 2012, but browns are still in demand.

■ Colorful accessories and fun patterns, such as rugs and outdoor pillows (Elaine Smith pillows are top choices).

■ Families with young children are using newer outdoor fabrics on their indoor furniture.

RESOURCES

■ www.allegrointeriordesign.com
■ www.authenteak.com
■ www.ballarddesigns.com
■ www.colonial-lighting.com
■ www.fanimation.com
■ www.frontgate.com
■ www.gardenista.com
■ www.hpba.org
■ www.kolocollection.com
■ www.vikingrange.com

ATLANTA JOURNAL-CONSTITUTION/MCT
The wood table is from the Jensen Leisure Furniture's Ipe Collection while bench seating is perfect for wet bathing suits.

WHAT'S COOKING

Picnic Chicken

This walnut-crusted baked chicken is delicious hot or cold.

Olive oil nonstick cooking spray
1 3/4 cups (about 8 ounces) walnuts
1 cup plain dried bread crumbs
1 1/2 teaspoons salt
1/4 teaspoon up to 1/2 teaspoon of ground red pepper, also known as cayenne
2 large eggs
8 medium (4 pounds) bone-in chicken breast halves, skin removed
8 medium (1 3/4 pounds) chicken drumsticks, skin removed
Choice of sauce

1. Preheat oven to 425 degrees F. Grease two 15 1/2 by 10 1/2 inch jelly-roll pans with cooking spray.

2. In food processor with knife blade attached, process walnuts with 1/4 cup bread crumbs until walnuts are finely ground. In medium bowl, combine nut mixture, salt, ground red pepper and remaining 3/4 cup bread crumbs; stir until well-mixed. In pie plate, beat eggs.

3. Cut each chicken breast half crosswise into two pieces. One at a time, dip breast pieces and drumsticks in beaten egg, then into walnut mixture to coat evenly, pressing firmly so mixture adheres. Arrange chicken in jelly-roll pans; lightly coat chicken with cooking spray.

4. Bake chicken until golden brown and juices run clear when thickest part of chicken is pierced with tip of knife, 30 to 35 minutes, rotating pans between upper and lower oven racks halfway through baking.

5. Serve chicken hot, or cool slightly, cover and refrigerate to serve cold later. Makes 12 main-dish servings.

Lemony Bean Duo

Wax beans and green beans are tossed in a simple dressing and garnished with lemon and mint.

1/2 cup packed fresh mint leaves
1 1/2 pounds green beans, trimmed
1 1/2 pounds wax beans, trimmed
Salt
Pepper
2 tablespoons extra-virgin olive oil
1 lemon

1. Heat 7- to 8-quart covered saucepot of water to boiling on high. Meanwhile, finely chop half of mint.

2. To saucepot, add beans and 1/2 teaspoon salt. Cook 7 to 8 minutes or until just crisp-tender, stirring occasionally. Drain well.

3. While beans are still warm, in large bowl, toss with oil, chopped mint, 1/2 teaspoon salt and 1/4 teaspoon freshly ground black pepper. Transfer to large shallow serving bowl. Grate lemon peel directly over beans, then tear remaining mint leaves and scatter over beans. Makes 12 side-dish servings.

For thousands of triple-tested recipes, visit our website at www.goodhousekeeping.com/recipefinder/.

THIS IS A HAMMER

When rain barrels violate HOA rules

By SAMANTHA MAZZOTTA
KING FEATURES SYND., INC.

Q: I keep a very nice lawn in the front and back of my house, along with a small kitchen garden and several flowers and shrubs. To water it—especially in this dry, hot summer—I try to use "gray" water as well as water collected in rain barrels placed under my downspouts. Recently I received a notice from my homeowners' association that the rain barrels are against the rules and will have to be removed. How can I convince them that these are not just environmentally friendly, but also the reason I'm able to keep my yard green and growing as required by the HOA rules?—Red-Taped in Roswell, Ga.

A: While I'm not an expert in dealing with homeowners' associations, my first thought would be that you should review the most recent copy of your HOA's rules. You'll want to find out what rule or rules the association is referring to, and if rain barrels are specifically mentioned. You'll also want to find out what your rights are as a member of the HOA, how you can appeal the notice, how long you have to comply and whether you can get that deadline extended.

Several years ago, a friend of mine renting in a townhouse community related a story to me. The condo association only allowed owners to be members, not renters. And it had set up, early in the community's history, rules that only owners could access the community amenities like the pool and clubhouse. The trouble was, more than 80 percent of the residents were renters—meaning very few actual residents could use those amenities. My friend took action, attending association meetings every month and speaking each month, until she convinced the association to vote on whether to allow renters to use the amenities. The vote passed easily.

I'm relating the above story as an example of what can be accomplished through persistence when it comes to these associations. Talk directly to the HOA, and talk with members of your community about the rain-barrel issue. What's really bothering the association about your rain barrels? Is it an aesthetic issue? Is it worried about mosquitoes hatching in the rain barrels? There are solutions to the problem—such as moving the rain barrels out of sight of the street, camouflaging them behind shrubbery and covering the barrels to prevent mosquitoes from breeding.

Get out the word, too, about the environmental benefits of using rainwater, as well as the cost savings from doing so. Chances are many homeowners will agree with you—but not if they don't know about the issue.

HOME TIP: HOAs can be either a headache or a boon to homeowners. Be aware of your HOA's rules and bylaws, and be a participant in the association to advocate effectively for changes or improvements to your community.

Send your questions or tips to ask@thisisahammer.com, or write This Is a Hammer, c/o King Features Weekly Service, P.O. Box 536475, Orlando, FL 32853-6475.

Life & Style

'Mad Men' and 'Girls' help cement Emmys cable lead

By LYNN ELBER
AP TELEVISION WRITER

LOS ANGELES (AP)—"Mad Men" is on the brink of making Emmy drama series history, Lena Dunham's comedy "Girls" is the buzz du jour, and both are on cable. As Thursday's nominations proved, the gap between cable and the broadcast networks is stunningly wide and only getting wider.

Five out of six best drama series slots were claimed by cable shows, both premium and basic, with the sixth going to PBS. Networks, which had controlled the comedy genre last year, lost fully half of that turf to "Girls," "Veep" and "Curb Your Enthusiasm," all HBO.

Not a single actor in a network drama series earned a lead or supporting bid for September's Emmy Awards.

Cable channels offer so much awards-caliber programming that even theatrical films, increasingly dependent on action films and adolescent comedies, can look shabby in comparison.

"A lot of what's happening on cable TV, you'd be hard-pressed to see that happen in a studio film," said Don Cheadle, whose performance in Showtime's "House of Lies" earned him a best comedy actor bid. "Right now, one of the most difficult things to put together are movies which have interesting content and adult themes."

For writers and actors who want to pursue creative work, that leaves independent films or the expanding number of cable channels willing to invest in ambitious scripted projects.

Lena Dunham, who made a splash with her indie film "Tiny Furniture," breathed life into the TV sitcom with "Girls," a darkly comedic coming-of-age New York story on HBO. It received a best comedy nod and acting, writing and directing nominations for her.

She described the experience of debuting the much-buzzed about "Girls" as "this feeling of finding your audience in this incredibly clear, beautiful way and being shocked that people were connecting to what I was doing and being amazed by the level of debate it was starting."

"Girls" is HBO's "current spin on `Sex and the City,' which was a strong past Emmy favorite," said Tom O'Neil, editor of the Gold Derby awards website. He called Dunham the current "toast of Hollywood."

History Channel moved into scripted fare in a big way (after backing away from airing the controversial "The Kennedys") with its "Hatfields & McCoy," starring Kevin Costner, which earned solid reviews and spectacular ratings this spring and 16 nods Thursday.

AP

This image released by AMC shows Jessica Pare as Megan Draper, left, and Jon Hamm as Don Draper in a scene from the season five premiere episode of "Mad Men," where Megan surprises Don with a birthday party.

The miniseries was the most-watched entertainment telecast ever on basic cable, drawing about 13 million each for its first two parts and hitting a high of 14.3 million for its third chapter. The best the networks had to offer that week: NBC's "America's Got Talent," seen by 11.5 million people.

Networks increasingly rely on talent contests and sports, programming that invites live viewing and means fewer people will record the airings and skip commercials. News magazines, relatively cheap to produce, have been another broadcast staple.

Scripted series, whether drama or comedy, tend to be formulaic—which certainly doesn't mean unpopular. CBS is the most-watched network on the strength of crime dramas including "NCIS," "CSI" and their spinoffs.

But innovation is coming from shows like "Mad Men," which earned a leading 17 Emmy nominations and the chance to earn its fifth best drama award and set a new record as the most-honored drama in television history.

The shows it's currently tied with and could leave behind: the broadcast dramas "Hill Street Blues," "L.A. Law" and "The West Wing," which once represented the best of TV.

"I always use `L.A. Law' as an example," said "Mad Men" creator Matthew Weiner. "If you went to pitch `L.A. Law' to NBC right now, you'd end up on Showtime."

But he said he's hesitant to talk about the broadcast vs. cable dynamic.

"It's because, in the end, I think people should remember that the same companies are making both products, and really it's a diversification businesswise," he said. "If you are in the business of Viacom, you are making `Homeland' and you are making `The Mentalist.'"

"There is always room to take a risk when you don't have to deliver 25 million people, and that's an unfair advantage," Weiner said.

That leaves Showtime able to boast about the nine nominations "Homeland" earned for its first year, including best drama series, while "The Mentalist" has earned a single nomination, for star Simon Baker, since it debuted in 2008.

Katie Holmes heads to Broadway post-divorce

By MARK KENNEDY
AP DRAMA WRITER

NEW YORK (AP)—Katie Holmes has decided what her first major acting project will be since announcing her divorce from Tom Cruise: Broadway.

The actress will star in Theresa Rebeck's "Dead Accounts," a five-character comedy that will be directed by three-time Tony Award winner Jack O'Brien, producers said Thursday.

All eyes were on Holmes' next step as a single woman. Was it to be a big film or a small one? Or more TV? Her decision to return to the physically strenuous eight-show-a-week life of a Broadway stage actress indicates a willingness to jump into the deep end.

Her last appearance on Broadway, which also marked her debut, was in the 2008 production of "All My Sons." The news that she will return to a Times Square stage is also a signal that she may intend to stay in New York City.

Holmes first came to stardom in the teen soap opera "Dawson's Creek," and had roles in such well-regarded films as "The Ice Storm," ``Go" and "Wonder Boys."

After Holmes began dating Cruise, she took a three-year break from acting that concluded with the poorly received heist film "Mad Money." She followed that up with the wedding drama "The Romantics" and small roles in the comedies "The Extra Man" and Adam Sandler's "Jack and Jill," and the thrillers "Don't Be Afraid of the Dark" and "The Son of No One." Though she starred in "Batman Begins" in 2005, she pulled out of "The Dark Knight."

Reviews for her work in Arthur Miller's classic 1947 "All My Sons" were mixed, with The Associated Press saying Holmes "has a striking physical presence, although not much vocal variety" and USA Today saying that "at best, she exhibits a girlish exuberance that could serve her well in certain stage roles."

The new Rebeck play, which had its world premiere at the Cincinnati Playhouse this winter, will open on Broadway this fall at the Music Box Theatre. Dates and other casting news will be announced later.

AP

This Nov. 11, 2011 file photo shows actress Katie Holmes at the premiere of "Jack and Jill" in Los Angeles.

Thai rehab center asks UK rocker Doherty to leave

BANGKOK (AP)—Troubled British rocker Pete Doherty was asked to cut short his one-month stay at a high-end drug rehabilitation center in Thailand because he would not forswear his desire for drugs, an official at the center said Thursday.

"At the end of the day—and this is actually quite common in the rehab institution—he basically worked out that he wasn't ready for recovery," The Cabin's marketing director Ben Moller said in a telephone interview.

Doherty, 33, made progress during his three weeks at the $12,000-a-month recovery resort and his departure was amicable, Moller said. But he added that the rocker was asked to leave because his lack of commitment jeopardized the treatment of other patients.

He described Doherty's exit from the center as "a mutual decision."

Doherty, who has fronted the bands Babyshambles and The Libertines, has struggled for years with drug abuse, especially heroin. He has visited Thailand in sunnier circumstances, taking a beach holiday in Phuket during the 2006-2007 New Year's holiday with his then-girlfriend, model Kate Moss.

He was also a friend of singer Amy Winehouse, who died last year of accidental alcohol poisoning.

Asked if Doherty had been asked to leave because he had resumed taking drugs, Moller replied: "He hadn't started using it, but that's what he wanted to do."

He said it was the nature of drug addiction recovery that one person's lack of commitment could affect other people.

"To have even one person here out of 20 people or so that's not even motivated to be recovered or to achieve recovery, it's really disruptive for the other ones and that's not because of Pete doing anything intentionally disruptive," said Moller.

The Cabin is outside Chiang Mai in northern Thailand. It has 27 teak cabins on a riverside site and boasts of a modern, holistic program with counseling and physical fitness.

Doherty's whereabouts after his discharge Tuesday were not known.

1979 Who tickets good for Rhode Island concert

PROVIDENCE, Rhode Island (AP)—Fans still holding tickets for a canceled 1979 show in Rhode Island by British rock band The Who can finally use them.

The Who's 1979 concert in Providence was canceled by then-Mayor Buddy Cianci, who cited safety concerns after a stampede before a show in Cincinnati, Ohio, killed 11 people. The band hasn't been to Providence since.

The Who this week announced it will end its latest tour in Providence on Feb. 26 at the same venue where its show was canceled 33 years ago, now called the Dunkin Donuts Center.

General Manager Lawrence Lepore said on Thursday the venue will honor tickets from the canceled 1979 show. Lepore said many ticketholders got refunds for the canceled show in 1979, but others may have held on to their tickets as memorabilia.

"Somewhere, someplace, someone's got it stashed," he said. "The question is, are they willing to give that up? If they are, we're willing to take it."

He first made the offer on WPRO-AM, which then asked listeners to call if they still had a 1979 ticket. No one did.

The highest price ticket at the 1979 show was $14, Lepore said. Tickets for February's show range from $57.50 to $127.50.

Lepore said 1979 ticketholders can call his office to make the exchange. Any 1979 tickets redeemed will be donated to help raise money for the Special Olympics of Rhode Island.

Klum reflects on 'Project Runway' early struggles

NEW YORK (AP)—Heidi Klum remembers the humble start of "Project Runway"—when things were so bare bones, the supermodel didn't even have a wardrobe budget.

"We started filming and I didn't have a stylist in the beginning," said the 39-year-old in an interview Thursday. "I was calling friends and asking 'Can I borrow this? Can I borrow that?'"

It's now eight years later, and the Emmy-winning series is debuting its 10th season on Thursday night. Hours earlier, it received four more Emmy nominations.

Klum, the show's creator and host, likened the reality show to being another child.

"It's like one of my babies being born and being out there for so many years already now. So of course I'm extra proud," she said.

When it comes to her real-life kids, the German supermodel said they will not be tuning in for the premiere.

"My children don't really watch a lot of television yet," she said. "Now my daughter, because she's 8 (years old), friends are telling her more and more about 'Project Runway' and she's like, 'Oh yeah, I visited my mom there a few times.' She doesn't really put it all together yet which I think is really nice."

AP

Heidi Klum, from left, designer Michael Kors, Nina Garcia and Tim Gunn pose for photos while promoting the launch of the new season of "Project Runway" in New York's Times Square on Thursday, July 19, 2012.

Klum has four children—three with singer Seal and a daughter from a previous relationship. She and Seal announced they were separating in January.

Klum and her "Project Runway" co-stars, mentor Tim Gunn, designer Michael Kors and Marie Claire's Nina Garcia, rode a double-decker bus through Times Square on Thursday to promote the premiere. They agreed that they took a big risk when signing on for the first season.

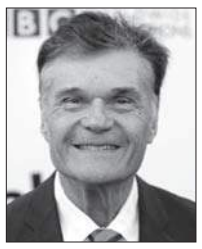
"It's a blind date that turned out very well," said Kors.

'Best in Show' actor Willard accused of lewd act

LOS ANGELES (AP)—Actor Fred Willard, perhaps best-known as a dog-show announcer in the movie "Best in Show," was arrested on suspicion of committing a lewd act at a Hollywood adult theater and later fired from his work on a PBS series.

Uniformed vice officers were conducting a routine investigation of the theater Wednesday night and saw Willard engaging in a lewd act, Los Angeles police Sgt. Mark Ro said. The actor appeared to be alone, he said.

Willard, 72, was booked at the Hollywood police station on suspicion of committing a lewd act in public. Ro said Willard was released after midnight without posting bail.



Willard

By Thursday afternoon, Willard had lost his job narrating "Market Warriors," which is produced by Boston public television station WGBH.

"Given the unfortunate news reported today, effective immediately Fred Willard no longer will be involved with the `Market Warriors' series," said WGBH spokeswoman Jeanne Hopkins.

Mark Walberg, the host of "Antiques Roadshow," will re-narrate the four episodes that have already been produced. Hopkins said.

Willard's attorney Paul Takakjian wrote in an email that he was gathering more information and declined further comment. The actor said in a video posted by celebrity website TMZ that it was a misunderstanding and denied wrongdoing.

ABC plans to continue broadcasting its series "Trust Us With Your Life," which is hosted by Willard and has four shows that have not yet aired.

Willard was nominated four times for Emmys for guest roles on TV's "Modern Family" and "Everybody Loves Raymond." In Pixar's 2008 hit "WALL-E," he played Shelby Forthright, the CEO of a ubiquitous big-box chain called Buy'n'Large.

In addition to "Best in Show," Willard has also appeared in other Christopher Guest mockumentary films, including "This is Spinal Tap" and "Waiting for Guffman."

SHOWBIZ TIDBITS

Publisher releases sexed-up editions of classics

NEW YORK (AP)—Now we know how Sherlock Holmes and Dr. Watson really felt about each other. British e-publisher Clandestine Classics is releasing sexed-up editions of Sherlock Holmes, "Pride and Prejudice" and other classics, with erotic passages woven into the traditional texts. That means Mr. Darcy "buried inside the depths" of Elizabeth Bennet in "Pride and Prejudice" and Dr. Watson declaring his "joy of knowing other men." Clandestine managing director Claire Siemaszkiewicz says she has always been drawn to "the underlying sexual tension" in older novels. The new editions were started before the "Fifty Shades" phenomenon, but the release date was moved up to July 30 in hopes of attracting fans of E.L. James' erotic trilogy.

Cee Lo Green postpones Las Vegas show opening

LAS VEGAS (AP) — Singer-songwriter Cee Lo Green says he's postponing the opening of his semi-permanent Las Vegas show because of his filming schedule for NBC's "The Voice." The "Cee Lo Green Presents Loberace" show was set to launch Aug. 29 at the Planet Hollywood resort, but it's now scheduled to start Feb. 27. Ticketholders are eligible for refunds. Green apologized for the postponement in a statement but says he has to keep commitments to the third season of the talent show. The performer is most recently known for the Grammy-winning 2010 single "Forget You." He says the 28-show Las Vegas run will feature showgirls, pyrotechnics and other over-the-top touches. Green is a coach on "The Voice." He's also one-half of the duo Gnarls Barkley, which produced the 2006 hit "Crazy."

Man urges wife to embrace her new life after his death

By ABIGAIL VAN BUREN
UNIVERSAL PRESS SYNDICATE

Dear Abby

DEAR ABBY: You once printed a letter from a man who was dying. He wanted his surviving widow to pursue happiness after his death with some man who would be kind to her. The letter was mainly addressed to those who might stand in judgment if she began dating soon after he was gone.

Abby, is there a rule of thumb about how long the widow or widower should wait after the death of the spouse to begin pursuing another relationship?

LONELY IN GADSDEN, ALA.

DEAR LONELY: There was a time when it was considered scandalous for a widow or widower to date before a year of mourning had passed. However, today the grieving spouse may begin to date whenever he or she feels ready to do so.

The letter you remember was signed "'Mac' in Oregon," and it bears repeating. Read on:

DEAR ABBY: Thank you for supporting the widow who started dating three months after her husband died. You were right when you told her, "The time to show respect for one's spouse is while that spouse is living."

Here is my story, and there must be a few thousand husbands (and wives) who feel the same as I do.

My wife and I have had many good years together. We raised kids, lived through joyous good times and horrendous bad times.

I am in my 18th month of chemo treatment for various cancers. I may live three months or five years. It doesn't matter how short or how long my life will be, but it's reasonable to assume that I will die before my wife does.

I have had a more rewarding and fruitful life than I probably deserve, for which I am grateful. But the day I die, my last thoughts will be regret that I shall leave her alone. So sad, to me, to know that after so many months of total concentration on my welfare—days of putting up with my misery and never letting me see her own misery—her reward will be to be left alone.

Abby, she is not the kind of person who should be left alone.

So I tell her now, and I want all my kids and friends to listen: "As soon as you possibly can, after throwing my ashes off the boat into the Pacific, wrap the memories of our life together around you—and begin a new life. If three days, or three months, after I'm gone, you find a man who will love and cherish you for a few years as I have for so many, go for it! You've earned it."

"MAC" IN OREGON

DEAR MAC: Your sincerity rings true, leaving me uncharacteristically speechless. Thanks for a two-hankie letter.

■ ■ ■

DEAR ABBY: My granddaughter is due to have a baby in a short while. She wants to have a baby shower and would like to invite her girlfriends with their husbands or boyfriends.

I always thought that baby showers were for females only. What is your opinion?

WONDERING GRANDMOTHER

DEAR WONDERING: Times have changed. Baby showers now often include men and take place on a weekend afternoon, preferably not on the same day as a major sports event.

One thing that hasn't changed, however: A baby shower is usually hosted by friends of the parents-to-be, rather than family.

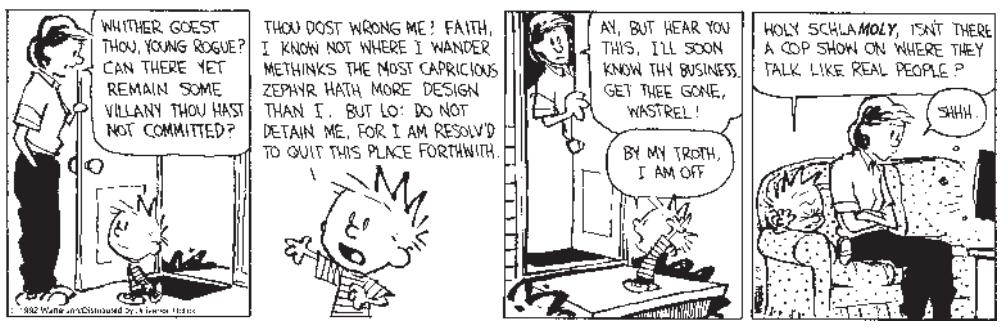
Dear Abby is written by Abigail Van Buren, also known as Jeanne Phillips, and was founded by her mother, Pauline Phillips. Write Dear Abby at www.DearAbby.com or P.O. Box 69440, Los Angeles, CA 90069.

Abby shares more than 100 of her favorite recipes in two booklets: "Abby's Favorite Recipes" and "More Favorite Recipes by Dear Abby." Send your name and mailing address, plus check or money order for $14 (U.S. funds) to: Dear Abby, Cookbooklet Set, P.O. Box 447, Mount Morris, IL 61054-0447. (Shipping and handling are included in the price.)

Pastimes

Calvin and Hobbes

By Bill Waterson

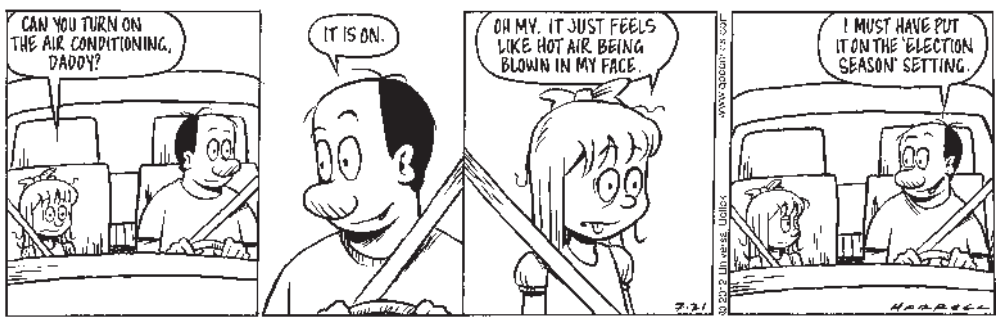

WHITHER GOEST THOU, YOUNG ROGUE? CAN THERE YET REMAIN SOME VILLANY THOU HAST NOT COMMITTED?
THOU DOST WRONG ME! FAITH, I KNOW NOT WHERE I WANDER METHINKS THE MOST CAPRICIOUS ZEPHYR HATH MORE DESIGN THAN I. BUT LO: DO NOT DETAIN ME, FOR I AM RESOLV'D TO QUIT THIS PLACE FORTHWITH.
AY, BUT HEAR YOU THIS, I'LL SOON KNOW THY BUSINESS. GET THEE GONE, WASTREL!
BY MY TROTH, I AM OFF
HOLY SCHLAMOLY, ISN'T THERE A COP SHOW ON WHERE THEY TALK LIKE REAL PEOPLE?
SHHH.

Garfield®

By Jim Davis

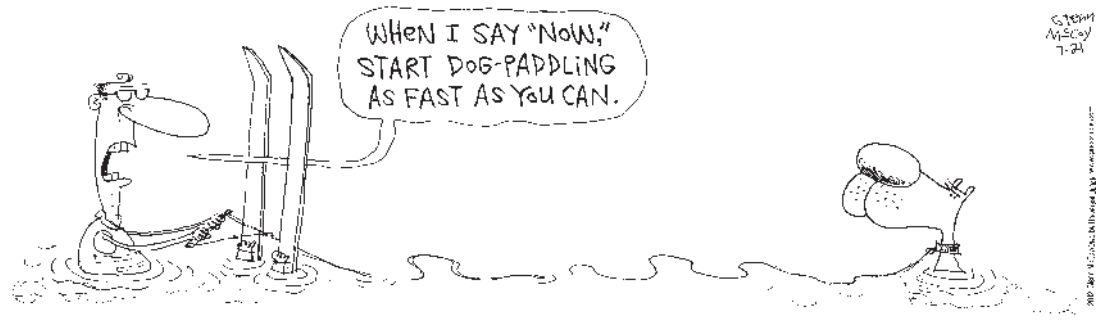
Adam@home

By Bryan Basset


CAN YOU TURN ON THE AIR CONDITIONING, DADDY?
IT IS ON.
OH MY. IT JUST FEELS LIKE HOT AIR BEING BLOWN IN MY FACE.
I MUST HAVE PUT IT ON THE 'ELECTION SEASON' SETTING.

The Duplex

By Glenn McCoy



CROSSWORD

By Eugene Sheffer

ACROSS

1 Abacus components
6 America's Cup contenders
12 Cyclist's need
13 Ottoman, for one
14 Ill will
15 Perfectly
16 Tousle
17 Eastern potentate
19 Conditions
20 Ganges garment
22 Corrode
24 Citric quaff
27 Smooch
29 Unrivaled
32 Quick pick-me-up?
35 Information
36 Cheshire countenance
37 Supporting
38 Midafternoon, in a way
40 "The Thin Man" pooch
42 Green machine?
44 Wire measures
46 Author Uris
50 Clutches
52 Using the Web
54 Give the same old story
55 Brought up
56 Sailor's assent
57 Eyelid problems

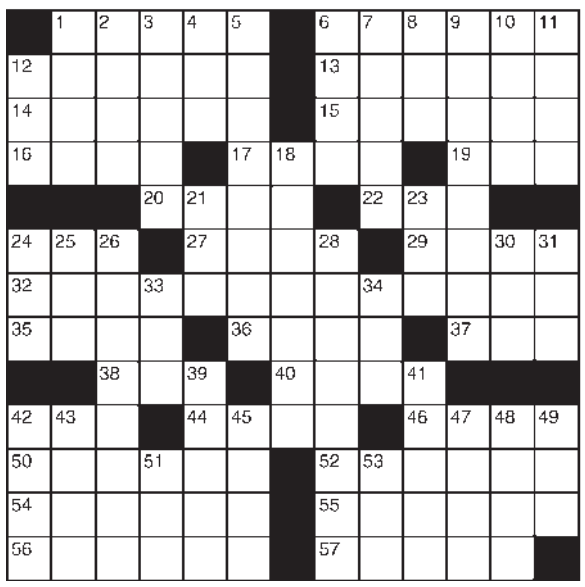
DOWN

1 Suitor
2 Right angles
3 Off
4 Calendar abbr.
5 At the wheel
6 Bigfoot's cousin
7 "Moonstruck" subject
8 Bookkeeper (Abbr.)
9 Become friends
10 Not kosher
11 Witnesses
12 "Let me think ..."
18 Strong wind of southern France
21 Wanted-poster abbr.
23 Alien of TV lore
24 Help
25 "CSI" evidence
26 Rough guess
28 Collagist's tool
30 "The Matrix" role
31 Always, in verse
33 Skater Babilonia
34 Can. prov.
39 Suggest
41 Soothe
42 City of India
43 Deuce defeater
45 Land in the water
47 Green acres?
48 Change for a five
49 Homer's neighbor
51 Vast expanse
53 Trawler need

Solution time: 27 mins.

H	I	D		B	L	A	M		V	A	L	E
O	R	E		A	L	M	A		O	T	I	S
S	O	L	E	N	O	I	D		W	E	E	P
E	N	E	R	G	Y		I	C	E			
			R	E	D		S	O	L	E	M	N
M	A	N	O	R		F	O	X		L	E	A
A	L	A	R		U	R	N		X	M	A	S
P	S	I		F	L	Y		T	E	S	L	A
S	O	I	F	I	Y		S	I	B			
			W	A	S		A	M	F	I	I	A
C	A	N	Γ		S	O	I	F	C	I	S	M
A	G	A	R		Γ	V	Γ	R		A	I	P
P	O	P	S		S	A	S	S		R	Γ	S

Yesterday's answer 7-21



STUMPED? For answers to today's crossword, call **1-900-226-5955**! 99c per minute. touch-tone/rotary phones. (18+ only.) A King Features service, NYC.

CELEBRITIES BORN ON THIS DAY: Justin Bartha, 34; Josh Hartnett, 34; Jon Lovitz, 55; Robin Williams, 61.

Happy Birthday: Mix the old with the new to come up with something that works perfectly. You have the wherewithal to reuse, redistribute and revamp old ideas and skills in order to get ahead. Spending less will impress and tempt others to support your efforts. Step forward and fight for your rights, and you will excel. Your numbers are 7, 10, 19, 22, 29, 37, 44.

ARIES (*March 21-April 19*): Express your interest, and you will connect with someone who enjoys the same things you do. Romance is in the stars and will enhance your love life. Don't hesitate to change your mind if you feel the need to move in a different direction. ✪✪✪

TAURUS (*April 20-May 20*): Protect your assets from a fast-talker looking for a handout. Someone you used to work with or date may appeal to you, but before you become too intertwined, hash out the past and consider whether it's worth your while. ✪✪

GEMINI (*May 21-June 20*): Fix up your digs, or entertain friends or family. The more active you are and the bigger your pursuits, the better you will feel about your accomplishments. Love is on the rise, and discussing plans will improve your personal life. ✪✪✪✪

CANCER (*June 21-July 22*): Don't let someone or something disrupt your itinerary. Take care of any problem quickly and without getting flustered. Don't let anger or frustration slow you down or stop you from enjoying the company of someone you love. Accept the inevitable. ✪✪✪

LEO (*July 23-Aug. 22*): Offer services or assistance, and you will be considered for a position that entails using your skills, knowledge and bravado. Relationships will open new possibilities that will lead to a different way of doing things and a unique lifestyle. ✪✪✪

VIRGO (*Aug. 23-Sept. 22*): Don't wait for someone to take over or take advantage of you. Step in and take control, or you may end up looking bad or underqualified for a job that interests you. Don't let a lover, friend or colleague tamper with you emotionally. ✪✪✪

LIBRA (*Sept. 23-Oct. 22*): Getting together with friends should highlight your day. Expand an interest, or shop for something that will help you move in a direction that suits you personally. Spend time socializing, looking for love or with that special person in your life. ✪✪✪✪

SCORPIO (*Oct. 23-Nov. 21*): Say less and do more. Focus on fixing up your residence or finding creative solutions for problems you face at home. Share an emotional moment with someone you love, and a deeper understanding of your relationship will unfold. ✪✪✪✪

SAGITTARIUS (*Nov. 22-Dec. 21*): Be careful how you handle family or your lover. An emotional misunderstanding can easily ruin your plans. Make whatever changes are necessary to keep the peace and to honor a promise. Problems with relatives can be expected. ✪✪

EUGENIA LAST

THE LAST WORD IN ASTROLOGY

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CAPRICORN (*Dec. 22-Jan. 19*): Go over your personal papers and look for any loophole you can use to increase your financial intake. An impulsive individual is likely to cause you concern. Protect your home, family and your assets. Decline if someone asks for financial help. ✪✪✪✪✪

AQUARIUS (*Jan. 20-Feb. 18*): Put your heart on the line, and make changes that will ease stress and lower your overhead. Don't let indulgences ruin a good relationship. Do whatever it takes to reach an agreement that works for everyone involved. ✪✪✪

PISCES (*Feb. 19-March 20*): Don't take chances financially, emotionally or physically. Look at your situation and the players involved. Don't allow someone to persuade you to go in one direction when another is clearly better for you. Emotional deception is apparent. ✪✪✪

Birthday Baby: You are quick-witted, charming and flexible. You are strong-willed and possessive.

Eugenia's Web sites: ***eugenialast.com*** *for confidential consultations,* ***myspace.com/eugenialast*** *for Eugenia's blog,* ***astroadvice.com*** *for fun*

SUDOKU

Conceptis Sudoku *By Dave Green*

		6		8				3
	5		1					
1			6					
	7	8		6				
2			9		5			4
				4		1	2	
					7			9
					2		6	
8				3		4		

Difficulty Level ★★★★ 7/21

Sudoku is a number-placing puzzle based on a 9x9 grid with several given numbers. The object is to place the numbers 1 to 9 in the empty squares so that each row, each column and each 3x3 box contains the same number only once. The difficulty level of the Conceptis Sudoku increases from Monday to Saturday.

Yesterday's SUDOKU Answer

1	4	7	9	6	5	2	8	3
8	5	2	3	4	7	1	6	9
9	3	6	8	1	2	7	4	5
7	9	5	4	8	1	6	3	2
6	2	8	5	7	3	4	9	1
4	1	3	6	2	9	5	7	8
2	8	1	7	9	6	3	5	4
5	6	9	2	3	4	8	1	7
3	7	4	1	5	8	9	2	6

Difficulty Level ★★★★ 7/21

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WONDERWORD®

By DAVID OUELLET

HOW TO PLAY: All the words listed below appear in the puzzle — horizontally, vertically, diagonally, even backward. Find them and **CIRCLE THEIR LETTERS ONLY. DO NOT CIRCLE THE WORD.** The leftover letters spell the Wonderword.

SUNDAY IS NATIONAL PARENTS DAY Solution: 8 letters

R	T	N	E	M	P	O	L	E	V	E	D	N	O	B
E	E	M	O	T	I	O	N	A	L	I	M	I	T	S
L	T	S	D	E	V	I	E	C	N	O	C	U	T	R
A	E	A	P	E	N	R	O	N	O	H	R	N	N	E
T	A	V	C	O	A	I	D	O	L	T	E	D	E	V
I	C	A	E	I	N	D	T	Y	T	R	H	E	M	I
O	H	L	L	N	N	S	O	U	A	I	T	R	T	G
N	O	U	B	O	T	U	I	P	O	B	A	S	I	E
S	N	E	A	C	N	Ⓝ	M	B	T	R	F	T	M	R
H	E	S	I	G	E	G	Ⓘ	M	I	M	A	A	M	A
I	S	R	C	P	E	T	O	Ⓒ	O	L	M	N	O	C
P	T	S	O	L	I	D	H	T	Ⓔ	C	I	D	C	A
S	F	O	S	T	E	R	H	O	M	E	L	T	E	R
L	A	Y	O	L	H	E	A	R	T	S	Y	R	Y	R
E	V	A	S	D	R	A	C	I	N	F	A	N	C	Y

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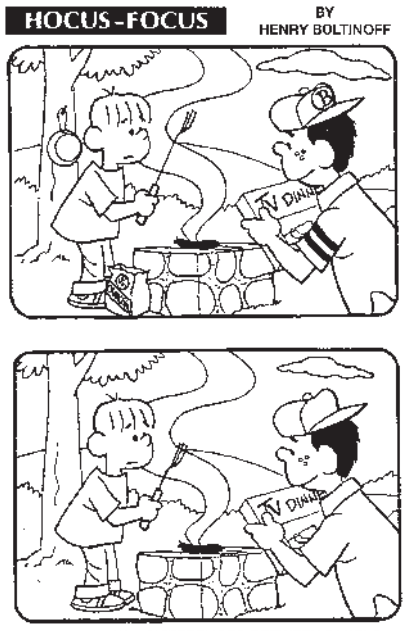
Adopt, Birth, Bond, Cards, Caregivers, Carry, Commitment, Communicate, Conceived, Development, Emotional, Event, Family, Father, Foster, Hearts, Home, Honest, Honor, Idol, Infancy, Limits, Love, Loyal, Models, Mother, Nice, Open, Parents, Relationships, Responsibility, Routine, Save, Sociable, Solid, Strict, Teach, Understand, Values, Young

Yesterday's Answer: Scissors

HOCUS-FOCUS

BY HENRY BOLTINOFF



FIND AT LEAST 6 DIFFERENCES BETWEEN PANELS.

Differences: 1. Pan's missing. 2. Charcoal is missing. 3. Fork is smaller. 4. Cloud is smaller. 5. Hat logo is missing. 6. Stripes are missing.

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Wishing Well®

7	5	2	7	6	2	3	4	3	2	5	2	4
Y	A	N	O	F	O	A	G	T	M	D	O	I
2	3	8	3	2	8	7	6	4	7	6	2	8
R	I	F	D	E	U	U	U	V	R	T	T	T
7	6	7	6	4	7	2	3	7	8	5	8	2
B	U	O	R	E	S	E	Y	S	U	V	R	A
4	8	3	6	2	3	8	7	2	4	8	7	3
G	E	S	E	R	U	U	I	S	O	N	S	M
4	8	5	8	7	6	8	7	4	5	4	7	5
O	C	E	L	H	I	O	A	D	N	A	P	T
7	4	7	8	4	8	6	5	4	5	4	8	5
P	D	Y	U	V	D	S	U	I	R	C	E	E
4	8	6	5	6	5	6	5	6	5	6	5	6
E	D	B	C	R	A	I	L	G	L	H	S	T

HERE IS A PLEASANT LITTLE GAME that will give you a message every day. It's a numerical puzzle designed to spell out your fortune. Count the letters in your first name. If the number of letters is 6 or more, subtract 4. If the number is less than 6, add 3. The result is your key number. Start at the upper left-hand corner and check one of your key numbers, left to right. Then read the message the letters under the checked figures give you.

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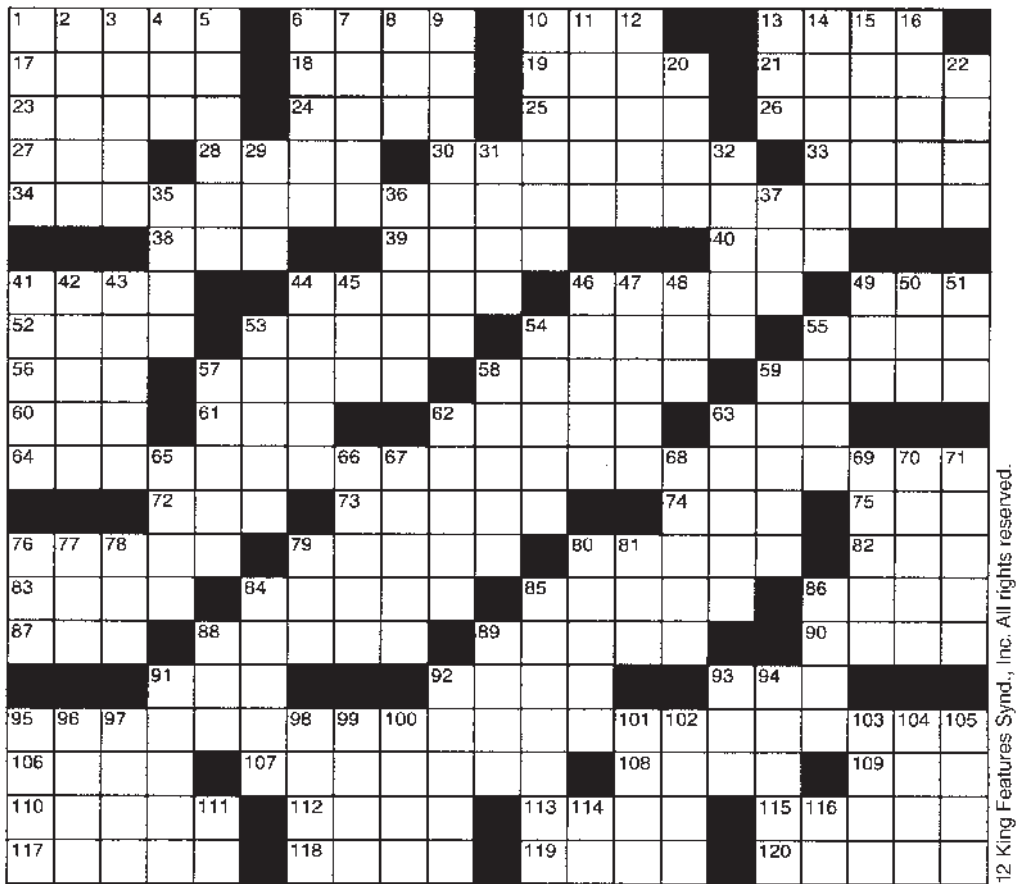
Super Crossword

STRIKE ONE!

ACROSS
1 Resembling
6 Lowdown lit
10 Small shot
13 Ellipse
17 Prompts
18 Sheet of stamps
19 — League
21 Send payment
23 Buenos —
24 Computer image
25 Non-stereo
26 Praise for Pavarotti
27 "Norma —" ('79 film)
28 Bruins' sch.
30 "Ada" author
33 List entry
34 Start of a remark by Will Rogers
38 Author LeShan
39 About
40 Very cold
41 Mets' milieu
44 Artist Neiman
46 Steakhouse order
49 Kasbah cap
52 Printed matter
53 Hook on a hawk
54 Wall Street spoilers
55 Poi base
56 Code letters
57 Prominent Hatch?
58 Gardener's delight
59 So out it's in
60 Bow
61 Playground game
62 Uncool ones
63 Who stoops to conquer
64 Middle of remark
72 Snaky swimmer
73 Actor Lorenzo
74 Logical letters
75 "Knots Landing" character
76 Yankee Derek
79 Nickel creature
80 Toughen up
82 Dachshund declaration
83 Surrounded by
84 Dedicated to defamation
85 Laotian native
86 "La Boheme" seamstress
87 Lave the linoleum
88 Part of a process
89 Black piano key
90 Spirit
91 — Lanka
92 Mutt of mystery
93 — -relief
95 End of remark
106 Corner a cat
107 Indy 500 figure
108 Actress Freeman
109 Fury's food
110 Destined to diet
112 Lost
113 Ultimate whale watcher?
115 Former African nation
117 Actress Marisa
118 Garr of "Mr. Mom"
119 Theater section
120 New York city
121 Salamander
122 57 Across, e.g.
123 Look like a letch
124 Com. treaty

DOWN
1 Peck part
2 A Heap of Dickens
3 Come around
4 Look at
5 Sent out
6 Like some milk
7 Jungle bird
8 Top numero
9 "In Memoriam" poet
10 Hefty grass
11 Witch wheels?
12 Low-octane joe?
13 Sphere
14 Prove
15 Famed figure in fiddles
16 Bile producer
20 Opus
22 Magnum opus
29 R.E. Lee's govt.
31 Part of DA
32 Scores in ores
35 Best
36 Hitter Hank
37 Sail through
41 Scarecrow stuffing
42 Monsieur Matisse
43 Precise
44 A particular Key
45 Lilly of pharmaceuticals
46 Mans the bar
47 Met men
48 Rossini's "Le Comte —"
49 Some trimmings
50 Bungle
51 Gnus center?
53 Seek out a school?
54 Conifer coverings
55 Really rain
57 Sleek swimmer
58 Some kind of a nut
59 — Island
62 "In Search of . . ." host
63 Unyielding
65 Pay attention to
66 Opens the mail
67 Discernment
68 Hunker down
69 Serve a purpose
70 Fate
71 Impish
76 Berry sweet stuff?
77 Funny Philips
78 Inside info
79 Herd word
80 Farouk's faith
81 Nicole on "Fame"
84 Exercises the arms
85 "— is said and done"
86 A real butte
88 Expert
89 Tennis legend
91 Playground feature
92 Reach
93 Prohibition
94 Woman warrior
95 Subway station
96 Papal name
97 "Superman" star
98 Coup d'—
99 Desert refuges
100 Jacques, for one
101 Effigy
102 Like a judge
103 Man of steal?
104 Jeweler's weight
105 African scavenger
111 Tolkien creation
114 Form furrows
116 Cookbook phrase



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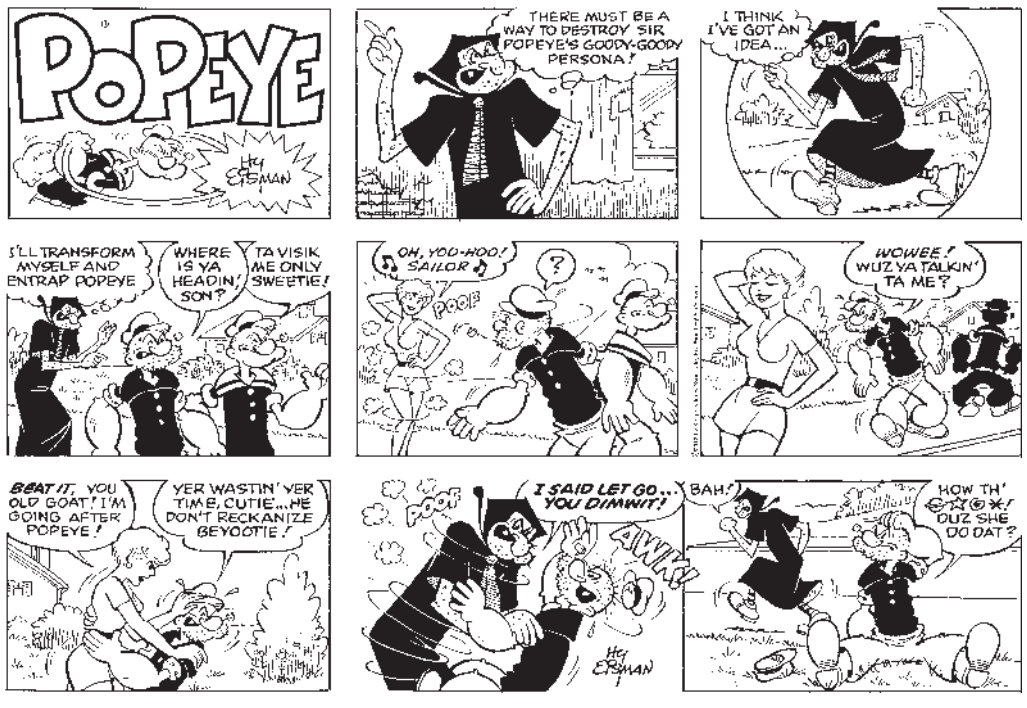
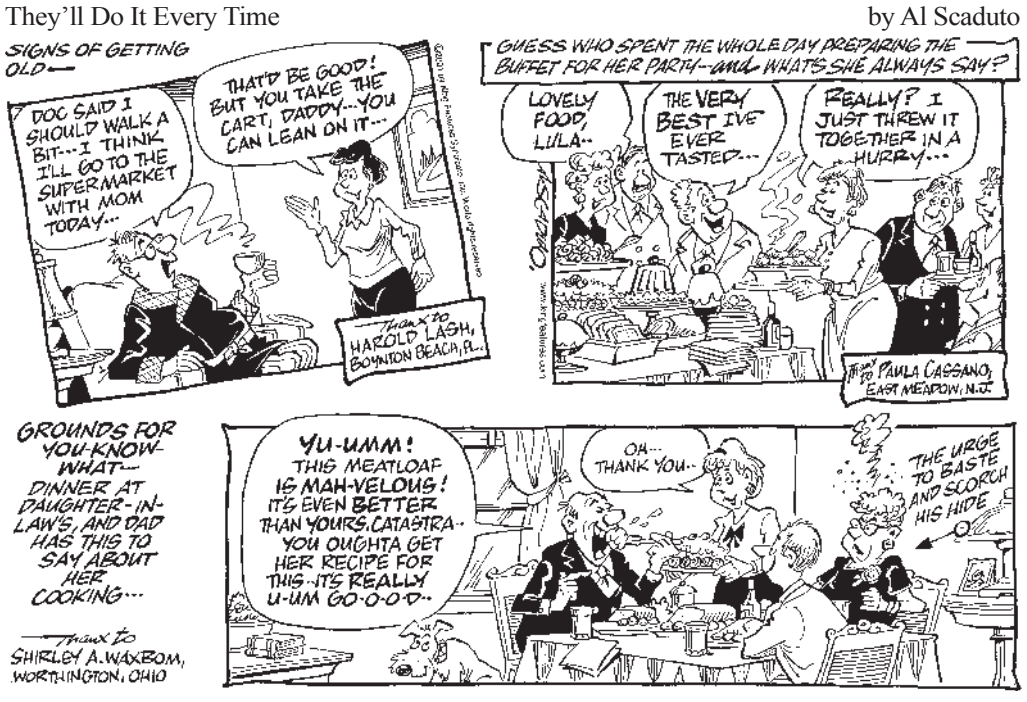
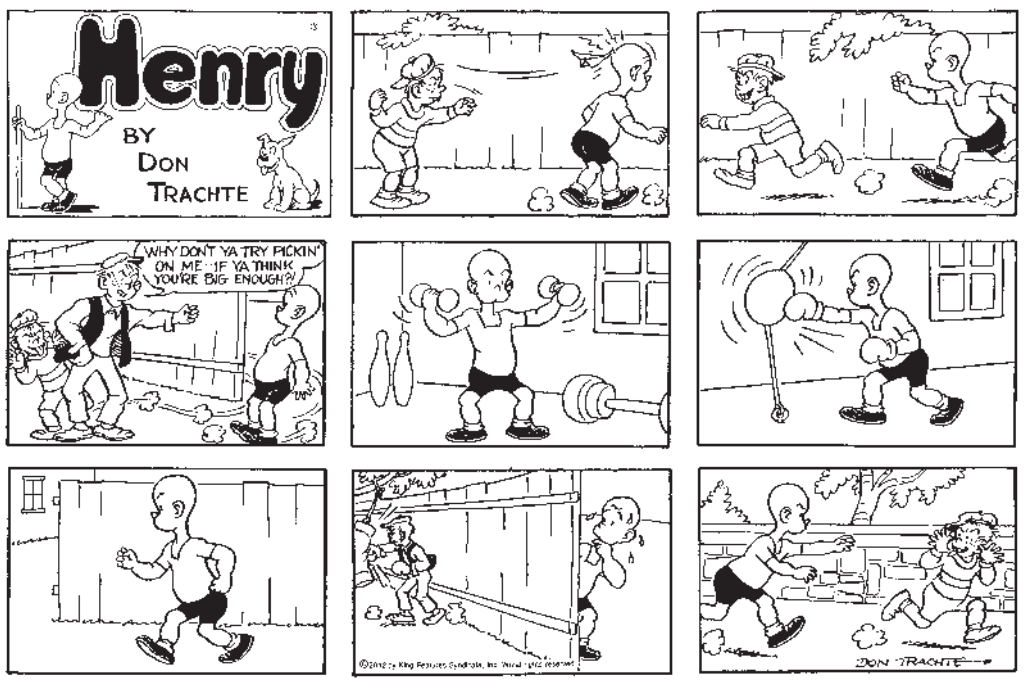

POPEYE
Hy Eisman
THERE MUST BE A WAY TO DESTROY SIR POPEYE'S GOODY-GOODY PERSONA!
I THINK I'VE GOT AN IDEA...
I'LL TRANSFORM MYSELF AND ENTRAP POPEYE
WHERE IS YA HEADIN', SON?
TA VISIK ME ONLY SWEETIE!
OH, YOO-HOO! SAILOR
POOP!
WOWEE! WUZ YA TALKIN' TA ME?
BEAT IT, YOU OLD GOAT! I'M GOING AFTER POPEYE!
YER WASTIN' VER TIME, CUTIE...HE DON'T RECKANIZE BEYOOTIE!
POOP!
I SAID LET GO.. YOU DIMWIT!
AWK!
BAH!
HOW TH' @#$%&! DUZ SHE DO DAT?
Hy Eisman

They'll Do It Every Time — by Al Scaduto


SIGNS OF GETTING OLD—
DOC SAID I SHOULD WALK A BIT—I THINK I'LL GO TO THE SUPERMARKET WITH MOM TODAY...
THAT'D BE GOOD! BUT YOU TAKE THE CART, DADDY—YOU CAN LEAN ON IT...
Thanx to HAROLD LASH, BOYNTON BEACH, FL.
GUESS WHO SPENT THE WHOLE DAY PREPARING THE BUFFET FOR HER PARTY—and WHAT'S SHE ALWAYS SAY?
LOVELY FOOD, LULA..
THE VERY BEST IVE EVER TASTED...
REALLY? I JUST THREW IT TOGETHER IN A HURRY...
Thanx to PAULA CASSANO, EAST MEADOW, N.Y.
GROUNDS FOR YOU-KNOW-WHAT— DINNER AT DAUGHTER-IN-LAW'S, AND DAD HAS THIS TO SAY ABOUT HER COOKING...
Thanx to SHIRLEY A. WAXBOM, WORTHINGTON, OHIO
YU-UMM! THIS MEATLOAF IS MAH-VELOUS! IT'S EVEN BETTER THAN YOURS, CATASTRA.. YOU OUGHTA GET HER RECIPE FOR THIS—IT'S REALLY U-UM GO-O-O-D..
OH... THANK YOU..
THE URGE TO BASTE AND SCORCH HIS HIDE



Trivia test

by Fifi Rodriguez

1. ADVERTISEMENTS: What product was advertised in TV ads featuring a cartoon character named Charlie the Tuna?
2. BIBLE: How old was David when he become king of Israel?
3. LANGUAGE: What dance and music style from the Portugese language means "new trend"?
4. GENERAL KNOWLEDGE: What is the name of the airport in Atlanta?
5. MUSIC: What was the theme song of country/western singer Gene Autry?
6. MYTHOLOGY: In Greek mythology, what was Pegasus' unique characteristic?
7. GOVERNMENT: What U.S. government agency's motto is, "And ye shall know the truth and the truth shall make you free"?
8. GEOGRAPHY: What is the name of the island where Nassau is located in the Bahamas?
9. MATH: What is the distance around a polygon?
10. TELEVISION: What was the name of Angus MacGyver's employer in the "MacGyver" drama series?

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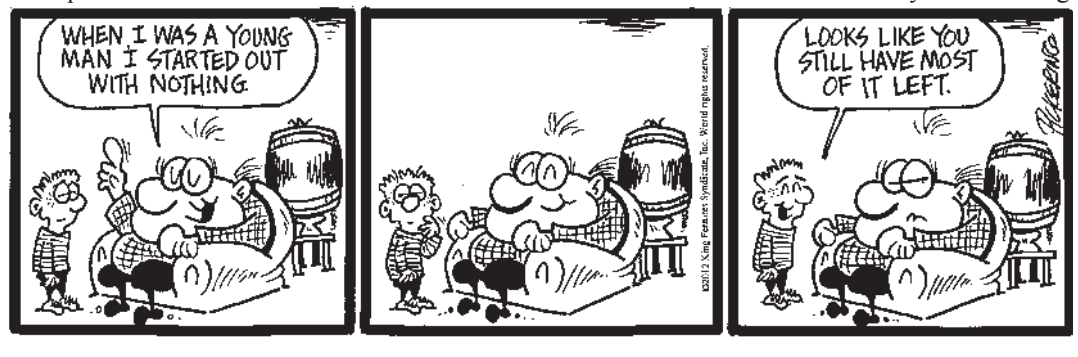
Answers
1. StarKist tuna
2. 30 years old
3. Bossa nova
4. Hartsfield International
5. "Back in the Saddle Again"
6. Pegasus was a winged horse
7. Central Intelligence Agency
8. New Providence
9. Perimeter
10. Phoenix Foundation

Saturday's Answers

The Spats — by Jeff Pickering


WHEN I WAS A YOUNG MAN I STARTED OUT WITH NOTHING.
LOOKS LIKE YOU STILL HAVE MOST OF IT LEFT.
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CLASSIFIED ADS

CLASSIFIEDS RATES AND POLICIES

Saipan Tribune's Classifieds Section gives you the right exposure without hurting your pockets. Stretch your dollar and get results.

CLASSIFIED LINER ADS

Saipan Tribune also offers a Super Saver Package—a complete 6-day run on both print and online edition, for as low as $27 for garage sales, apartment rentals, help wanted, auto and more. You can choose from any of the packages below.

ADS	(PRINT)	COMBO (PRINT AND ONLINE)
• 3-Liner	$15	$27
• 5-Liner	$24	$39
• 3-Liner with picture	$24	$42
• 5-Liner with picture	$36	$57

ADVERTISING DEADLINE

Classified Ads

Ads must be submitted before 12 noon 2 days prior to publication date

Saturday Issue:
- All ads placed Friday before 12 noon will come out Saturday issue and anything placed thereafter will be published on Monday issue.

CANCELLATION

Classified Ads

Cancellations should be made before 12 noon of the day prior to date of publication.

REFUNDS

Refunds will only be made if cancellation deadlines are met. No refunds will be made once ad is already printed.

CHECK YOUR ADS

Saipan Tribune will not be responsible for errors after the first day of publication. Errors should be called in before noon of the issue date. *Saipan Tribune* reserves the right to place ads under proper headings and to revise copy when necessary.

ADVERTISING POLICY

All advertising in the *Saipan Tribune* are subject to applicable rate sheet, copies of which are available from the Advertising Sales Department (please call 235-8747, 235-2769 or 235-6397). All ads will be subject to approval prior to publication. We reserve the right to edit, refuse, reject or cancel any ad at any time. Also, *Saipan Tribune* reserves the right to place ads under proper headings and to revise copy when necessary.

Commonwealth Utilities Corporation
JOB VACANCY ANNOUNCEMENTS

JVA No. 12-028

Opening Date: Monday, July 16, 2012
Closing Date: Monday, July 30, 2012

Safety Technician

Duties: Under the direct supervision of the Safety Officer or his/her designee. Assists in inspections to inform, enforce and regulate compliance and environmental issues; writes citations for corrective actions. Assists in responding to incidents and emergencies to ensure compliance with laws, rules and regulations; ensures customer is issues are addressed and proper procedures are followed. Drafts reports on accidents and incidents. Assists in conducting a wide variety of workshops and/or orientations. Positions are also responsible for: Assisting field workers with traffic safety; Ensuring proper protective equipment is being used; Transporting vehicle operators for drug or alcohol testing; Investigating property theft and personal injuries; Conducting safety orientations and workshops. Coordinates worker's compensation filing and reporting. Performs other duties of a similar nature or level as required.

LOCATION(S): Saipan, Northern Mariana Islands, USA.

SALARY: $17,000.00 to $20,000.00 per annum; un-classified; un-graded.

CONTRACT: Not Contracted.

POSITION(S): One.

Minimum Requirements: High School diploma or General Education Diploma (GED) or Adult School diploma through the Adult Basic Education (ABE) program and two years of work experience. Knowledge of: OSHA and other applicable laws, rules and regulations; Investigation techniques; Safety procedures; Mitigation procedures. Skills in: Conducting inspections; Conducting investigations; Reading plans and specifications; Performing testing; Interpreting policies, procedures, rules and regulations; Preparing reports; Giving presentations; Conducting workshops; Using a two-way radios; Using computers and related software applications; Communication, interpersonal skills as applied to interaction with coworkers, supervisor, the general public, etc. sufficient to exchange or convey information and to receive work direction.

Applications may be picked up and dropped off at the Human Resource Office located on the 3rd Floor of the Joeten Dandan Building or the Tinian and Rota Administration Office.

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Businesses slam 'excessive' $500 fire re-inspection, $500 permit fees
Are you ready to Ace it?
Opinion
Even despots don't live forever
The flagrance of war
Focus
More US Catholics take complaints to church court
Campus Life
KagHS JROTC does well in drill competiti
GCA's January forensic winners
Overdrive
Mustang Boss 302
a thrill to drive, but lacks the extras
Life&Style
Davis, Dujardin win lead honors at SAG awards
Mary Tyler Moore honored for lifetime achievement
Pastimes
SUDOKU
Sports
Rollers eyeing two trips to PH in 201
'King of Aces' on island through January
SRCR welcomed nine new members in 2011

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Find the familiar phrase, saying or name in this arrangement of letters.

Galahad a.m.

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Find today's solution in classified section

Walk in the park gives Scott lead at British Open

LYTHAM ST. ANNES, England (AP)—Unlike the guys in charge of the weather forecast, Adam Scott got everything just about right Thursday in the British Open.

Scott was determined not to take himself out of contention in the opening round at Royal Lytham & St. Annes, as he had done in the first two majors this year. Caddie Steve Williams gave him a pep talk to play the first hole like it was the last one. Even more inspiration came from the international flags posted above the massive grandstand down the left side of the first tee.

They weren't flapping. They were sagging.

In surprisingly calm conditions, Scott raced out to the lead and almost into the record book. He stood on the 18th tee needing a birdie to break the major championship scoring record, and instead made bogey to settle for a 6-under 64.

It matched the lowest Open round ever at Royal Lytham and gave the Australian a one-shot lead over Paul Lawrie, Zach Johnson and Nicolas Colsaerts.

"It was just like a nice walk in the park today," Scott said. "And it was not what we've experienced in the practice rounds. I'm sure there's going to be some weather elements thrown at us the next three days, so just going to have to knuckle down to handle that. But I'm confident. My ball striking is good. I think I can get it around no matter what the conditions are."

The proof was in limp flags and red numbers on the scoreboards.

Scott was among three dozen players with rounds in the 60s, a group that included Tiger Woods. Trying to end a four-year drought in the majors, Woods raced out to four birdies in seven holes to take the early lead, only to settle into a series of pars and one adventure through grass up to his knees for a lone bogey that gave him a 67. In his third Open at Lytham, Woods said it was as easy as he had ever seen it play.

"The wind wasn't blowing, and we're backing golf balls up," Woods said. "That's something we just don't see."

AP

Adam Scott of Australia plays a shot on the 15th hole at Royal Lytham & St Annes golf club during the first round of the British Open Golf Championship, Lytham St Annes, England, Thursday, July 19, 2012.

Lawrie won his British Open in nasty conditions at Carnoustie in 1999, and the Scot showed he could handle the calm weather with equal aplomb. He ran off three birdies over the last five holes. Johnson, who won the 2006 Masters in the wind and cold at Augusta National, flirted with a major record-tying 63 until a bogey on the 17th hole. Colsaerts, the big hitter from Belgium, holed out with an 8-iron on the 481-yard second hole for eagle and added four birdies for his 65.

Brandt Snedeker was another shot behind at 66.

"We had a little wind early on the front nine, but it kind of calmed down the second half," Snedeker said "That's the best Americans are going to see over here."

Rory McIlroy was panned last summer at Royal St. George's for saying he prefers calm conditions, so maybe this was more to his liking. He wound up in the group at 67 after a wild day filled with great shots, bad luck and a bump on the head for a 16-year-old spectator standing in the wrong spot.

McIlroy was at 3 under with four holes remaining when his drive on the 15th hole sailed to the right of the fairway. It plunked the teenager in the head and caromed farther to the right. The teen was OK. The ball settled a few inches beyond the out-of-bounds stakes near a corporate tent, sending McIlroy back to the tee to play his third shot. McIlroy gave the lad a glove on which he wrote "Sorry" with a frown face and "Rory."

"He could have headed it the other way," McIlroy joked later. "It would have been on the fairway."

He bounced back from that double bogey by driving the 336-yard 16th hole and two-putting for birdie, then making birdie on the final hole to join guys like Ernie Els, Masters champion Bubba Watson, Graeme McDowell and Steve Stricker, who followed an eagle from the 13th fairway with a double bogey on the next hole.

One sign of the easy scoring was that no one shot in the 80s. That hasn't happened in the opening round of the British Open since 1998 at Royal Birkdale, where conditions also were benign. Woods opened with a 65 that year, only to get blown away in bad weather the next round.

Perhaps bad weather is on the way. The forecast hasn't been nearly as accurate as Scott was with his tee shots on Thursday—sunshine when it calls for rain, clouds when the forecast is for dry spells.

Els and his caddie, Ricci Roberts, figured out immediately that dead calm translates to low scores.

"It's on today," he said. "I said to Ricci, `I might not have the chance again.' You never know how the weather is going to be."

But even in such weather suited for low scores, Lytham still required tee shots in the fairway. It still demanded good shots. And it was a struggle for some.

Lee Westwood, despite a birdie-birdie start, hit a bunker shot across the third green to take double bogey, and had to play a left-handed shot out of the back end of a pot bunker on the 13th hole as he staggered to a 73. Luke Donald made a sloppy bogey—his only one of the round—on the final hole for a 70. Justin Rose played in the same group as Woods and already was nine shots behind after eight holes. He rallied for a 74.

Lytham was there for the taking—as long as the tee shots found the fairway.

Phil Mickelson, a runner-up at Royal St. George's last year, went from the left rough to the right rough on the par-5 seventh to make double bogey on the easy hole at Lytham. On the next hole, he tried to hit wedge out of a pot bunker and it got snagged in high grass just over the lip. A small search party nearly didn't find it, and Mickelson had to take a penalty shot to drop it back in the fairway.

"I putted poorly today and I drove it horrific and the chipping was below average," he said.

Scott had no such issues. After an early bogey when he got out of position on the third hole, he warmed up with birdies on the sixth and seventh holes, and then ran off three straight birdies on the back nine, starting with the 598-yard 11th hole that he reached in two shots.

Royal Lytham was changed to a par 70 this year, and with a birdie on the 16th that put him at 7 under, Scott needed one more birdie to become the first player with a 62 in the majors. There have been 25 rounds of 63.

"I was waiting to use the bathroom going to the 17th tee and I did a look at the leaderboard and realized it was a par 70," he said. "And I also probably then realized that I wasn't going to be the guy to shoot 62. It's one of those things that you don't want to go through your mind, thinking about your final score and stuff like that."

He slightly pulled a 2-iron off the tee on the 18th, played out of the thick rough short of the green and failed to save par.

No matter. His 64, which matched Tom Lehman's third-round score in 1996 when he went on to win his only major.

Scott can only hope for the same outcome. His 18 worldwide wins include The Players Championship, the Tour Championship, and the Australian Open. He has reached as high as No. 3 in the world. He is missing the kind of trophy that defines great players.

"I've won a couple of tournaments most years, which is a good habit to have because it's getting harder and harder to win out here," Scott said. "And I'm looking for a win this year. But I would say I haven't achieved what I wanted until I win a major."

Colts sign QB Andrew Luck to 4-year deal

By MICHAEL MAROT
AP SPORTS WRITER

Rest easy, Colts fans. The Andrew Luck era can now officially begin.

The Colts signed the Stanford quarterback and No. 1 overall pick in the draft to a four-year, $22.1 million deal on Thursday,

"12 is officially signed!!!!!!" Colts owner Jim Irsay tweeted, adding a photo of Luck signing his contract for good measure. Luck's agent and uncle, Will Wilson, confirmed the deal had been completed.

The deal is similar to the one signed by Cam Newton a year ago and the one signed this week by Robert Griffin III. Newton, last year's top pick, has a four-year, $22 million deal with Carolina and Griffin, who went No. 2 behind Luck in April's draft, signed a four-year contract with the Washington Redskins worth $21.1 million guaranteed, with a club option for a fifth year.

Whatever the terms, Colts fans can look forward to seeing Luck behind center this season, brought in to help the proud franchise rebound after last year's horrible skid. The injured Peyton Manning never played a down and now he's gone, off to Denver for a fresh start with the Broncos.

Indy gets a rare opportunity to transition from one star quarterback to another.

Luck threw for 35 touchdowns last season—breaking his school record of 32 in 2010—and eclipsed John Elway's career record (77) at Stanford with 80 touchdown passes in only three seasons. He finished with 3,170 yards passing, a 70 percent completion percentage and only nine interceptions without the benefit of an elite wide receiver in 2011. He was the Heisman Trophy runner-up—twice.

Luck has a pretty good idea what to expect beyond wearing a No. 12 jersey for the Colts. He will be expected to help lead the team back from a 2-14 season that included an 0-13 start with Manning out recovering from neck surgery.

Irsay cleaned out the front office and changed coaching staffs in January and February. Bruce Arians was Manning's first NFL quarterbacks coach and he's back as Indy's offensive coordinator, and former Indy offensive coordinator Clyde Christensen is now the Colts quarterback coach.

There's a new general manager in Ryan Grigson and a new coach in Chuck Pagano.

But Luck is the cornerstone in Indy's biggest overhaul since Manning was drafted in 1998. He is expected to start immediately after playing in a pro-style system at Stanford, where he was originally tutored by former Colts quarterback and 49ers coach Jim Harbaugh.

After drafting Luck, the Colts picked tight end Coby Fleener, his Stanford teammate, in the second round. They got another tight end in Clemson's Dwayne Allen and speedy receiver T.Y. Hilton to go with Reggie Wayne.

Still, there were a lot of player moves, too.

The Colts released Manning on March 7 rather than paying him $28 million. Two days later, Indy cut defensive captains Gary Brackett and Melvin Bullitt and former Pro Bowlers Dallas Clark and Joseph Addai. They lost longtime center Jeff Saturday and emerging receiver Pierre Garcon in free agency and dipped into free-agency to improve a leaky defense and an unproven offensive line.

The biggest challenge in 2012, like it was in 1998, will be breaking in a new quarterback.

Athletics end Yankees home hoodoo, win 4-3

OAKLAND, California (AP)—Oakland ended a run of nine straight home losses to the New York Yankees by winning 4-3 on Thursday, thanks chiefly to Yoenis Cespedes' two-run homer in the first inning.

The A's won for the 11th time in 13 games overall to move a season-best four games over .500 at 48-44—the first time the club has been there since early 2010.

Oakland starter A.J. Griffin (2-0) allowed four hits in six innings, and didn't walk a batter for the first time in his fifth career start.

New York starter Freddy Garcia (4-3) lost for the first time since April. His nine hits allowed in 5 2-3 innings matched his most of the season.

A's closer Ryan Cook surrendered a homer in the ninth before recovering for the save.

Tigers 5, Angels 1

In Detroit, the hosts won for the 10th time in 12 games by downing Los Angeles.

Tigers starter Max Scherzer (9-5) struck out nine and gave up only one run over seven innings.

Alex Avila and Miguel Cabrera both homered as Detroit went out to a 5-0 lead in the fifth.

Angels starter Jerome Williams (6-7) allowed five runs over six-plus innings to lose a fifth straight start for the first time in his career.

Red Sox 3, White Sox 1

In Boston, Cody Ross hit a three-run homer with one out in the bottom of the ninth inning to give Boston the win over Chicago.

His winning hit came a day after he hit three-run homers in consecutive innings.

Chicago pitcher Matt Thornton (2-6) got one out in the ninth, but left with runners on first and second before Addison Reed faced Ross, who hit a pitch into the Green Monster seats.

Boston's Alfredo Aceves (1-6) pitched one inning to notch his first win of the season.

Rays 6, Indians 0

In St. Petersburg, Florida, David Price became the AL's first 13-game winner as Tampa Bay shut down Cleveland.

Price (13-4) pitched seven scoreless innings with seven strikeouts and three walks.

B.J. Upton hit a three-run double off Ubaldo Jimenez (8-9) during a four-run sixth that put the Rays up 5-0.

Orioles 4, Twins 3

In Minneapolis, Mark Reynolds' two-run single in the eighth inning lifted Baltimore over Minnesota.

Orioles starter Chen Wei-yin (8-5) gave up six hits with five strikeouts in seven innings for his first win since June 17 for the Orioles, who came back to split the series after dropping the first two games.

Twins reliever Alex Burnett (3-3) pitched a third of an inning and was charged with both runs Reynolds batted in.

Mariners 6, Royals 1

In Kansas City, Missouri, Felix Hernandez won his fourth straight decision as Seattle defeated Kansas City.

Hernandez (8-5) is 4-0 with a 1.37 ERA in his past seven starts. While he leads the majors with 143 strikeouts, Hernandez struck out only three on Thursday, tying his season low. He allowed one run, throwing only 89 pitches in eight innings.

Jesus Montero homered for the Mariners.

Royals rookie Will Smith (1-3) took the loss.

Braves 3, Giants 2

In Atlanta, the Braves' Freddie Freeman and David Ross hit home runs and Atlanta made the most of their three hits, edging the San Francisco Giants.

Tim Hudson (8-4) helped an Atlanta bullpen drained by Wednesday's loss in 11 innings. He gave up two runs in 7 1-3 innings to outpitch Giants starter Madison Bumgarner (11-6).

The NL West-leading Giants' five-game winning streak ended with their first loss since the All-Star break.

Bumgarner allowed three runs in seven innings.

AP

Oakland Athletics' Yoenis Cespedes runs the bases after hitting a two-run home run off New York Yankees' Freddy Garcia in the first inning of a baseball game, Thursday, July 19, 2012, in Oakland, Calif.

Mets 9, Nationals 5

In Washington, David Wright homered twice and had five RBIs, powering New York past Washington.

Wright hit a two-run shot in the first off Gio Gonzalez (12-5), who was rocked for six runs in 3 1-3 innings, his shortest start of the season.

Mets starter R.A. Dickey (13-1) won his league-leading 13th game. He pitched 7 1-3 innings to break a streak of rare ineffectiveness this season. After throwing consecutive one-hitters last month, Dickey had won just one of four starts. In his previous two, he gave up five runs in each game.

Reds 7, Diamondbacks 6

In Cincinnati, Brandon Phillips homered and had five RBIs, then scored the go-ahead run in the seventh inning to help Cincinnati rally from a six-run deficit to beat Arizona.

Arizona was leading 6-3 with one out in the seventh when reliever Bryan Shaw (1-4) walked two batters. Wilson Valdez's grounder skipped under the glove of the first baseman for a run-scoring error, setting up Phillips' game-tying two-run double. Phillips then scored on Todd Frazier's single.

Reds reliever Alfredo Simon (2-1) took the win, and Aroldis Chapman completed the save.

Cubs 4, Marlins 2

In Chicago, Paul Maholm pitched eight innings to steer Chicago past Miami.

Maholm (8-6) allowed one run to win his fourth consecutive start, matching a career best. He has allowed just three runs in his past 30 1-3 innings for an impressive 0.89 ERA over five games.

Marlins starter Mark Buehrle (9-9) was back in the Windy City for the first time since he left the White Sox for a $58 million, four-year contract with Miami. He gave up four runs in six innings.

Padres 1, Astros 0

In San Diego, Edinson Volquez threw a one-hitter for the first complete game and shutout of his career as San Diego edged Houston and won for the fifth time in six games.

Volquez (6-7) allowed only an infield single in the fourth. The win improved Volquez's career record against the Astros to 6-0.

Alexi Amarista doubled and Logan Forsythe singled in the first inning to score the game's only run.

Astros starter Lucas Harrell (7-7), who threw a shutout against San Diego last month, gave up four hits in seven innings.

Jeremy Lin lands in Houston

HOUSTON (AP)—Jeremy Lin figured he'd be having this kind of news conference in New York.

Instead, he was talking about his new deal with the Houston Rockets on Thursday on the same practice court where he worked in virtual anonymity seven months ago before he was waived. Lin became a Rocket again when the Knicks decided not to match Houston's three-year, $25 million offer.

"It's been an unbelievable ride," Lin said. "Just a lot of things I didn't expect to happen, in terms of just the way last season went. I still have to kind of remind myself that this is all actually happening, sometimes. But it's a huge blessing. I can't believe how it all shaped up and for me to be here right now. I'm definitely excited and thankful."

Lin said he expected to be re-signed by the Knicks after he electrified the Big Apple last season before he was sidelined by a knee injury. Shortly after the Knicks officially declined to match, Lin was quoted on SI.com as saying, "Honestly, I preferred New York."

Lin said the question he answered was set in the context of before the start of the free agency period.

"The question was, `Going into free agency, which team did you prefer?'" Lin said. "Before July 1, I didn't even know what teams were interested in me. But all I was hearing was, `You're going back to New York.' At that time, before free agency started, I preferred New York. By the time it came to the offer sheet, I was just excited about both opportunities.

"Houston and New York," he said, "I was definitely excited about the possibility to go to both."

But probably not as excited as the Rockets were to get him.

Houston has missed the playoffs the last three seasons, and when Linsanity skyrocketed in New York, general manager Daryl Morey was kicking himself for waiving him on Christmas Eve. When Lin hit a winning 3-pointer in Toronto on Valentine's Day, owner Leslie Alexander called Morey to tersely ask him again why Lin was no longer a Rocket.

"He was killing me," Morey said with a smile. "I think one of the reasons Mr. Alexander is a great owner is because we're constantly evaluating our past decisions and deciding what did we know at the time? What could we have done better? How can we improve?

"People are making a lot of us admitting to our mistake," Morey said. "But the only way to get better is to quickly say, `That was a mistake. How can we do better next time?'"

At the time Lin was released, the Rockets had Goran Dragic and Kyle Lowry on the roster—two point guards with NBA experience. And who knew what Linsanity would become?

"We had very fair reasons to waive him," Morey said. "But the reality is, we shouldn't have."

The Knicks didn't initially see his potential, either, dropping him briefly to the developmental league in January. He was recalled in early February and with team floundering at 8-15, coach Mike D'Antoni turned to Lin.

The 23-year-old undrafted point guard from Harvard scored 25 points in a 99-92 win over New Jersey and a global phenomenon was born. He proved to be more than a one-game wonder, becoming the first player in league history to average 20 points and seven assists in his first five games.

Lin jerseys became the league's top sellers, he made the cover of Sports Illustrated in consecutive weeks and had drinks named for him in New York. He was initially overwhelmed by the media glare. Now, he takes it in stride.

He went to dinner with new teammate Chandler Parsons in Houston on Wednesday night and Parsons estimated they were interrupted 15-20 times by fans asking for autographs and photos.

"This past year, it took me by surprise and it was just this huge storm," Lin said. "It was kind of baptism by fire. You get thrown into it and you've just got to make adjustments and learn. That's a lot of what I had to do."

While Alexander said the decision to pursue Lin was "all basketball," he acknowledged that he could potentially impact on the Rockets' brand in the way that Yao Ming did, expanding its reach in Asia. But hat, Alexander, depends on how good Lin becomes and if the team improves along with him.

Lin is American-born, but of Chinese and Taiwanese descent, and the number of Chinese media at the press conference was about equal to the American contingent.

"If you don't win, what difference does it make?" Alexander said. "If you get him, and he's not a very good player, you look like a fool. How does that help you in any way?"

There's an added caveat for Lin and the Rockets this season—the All-Star game will be played in Houston on Feb. 17. Yao was named to eight All-Star teams, largely on the strength of Chinese fans who voted online.

"It's great for the city, it's great for the fans, it's great for everybody," Alexander said of getting Lin. "The sponsors, everybody associated with the team."

On the court, though, all Houston really needed was a point guard. The Rockets lost the unrestricted free agent Dragic to Phoenix, then dealt Lowry to Toronto for a first-round pick, made more valuable because it has lottery protection.

Lin averaged 14.6 points and 6.2 assists in 35 games (25 starts) for the Knicks last season. His aim is to improve his statistics every year - and how good they get, not even he would venture to guess.

"I don't know what my ceiling is, I don't know what my potential is," he said. "We don't know what the ending is going to be. But I'm excited to find out."

With Lin in place, the roster is still taking shape. Morey says the team plans to sign Bulls center Omer Asik to a three-year, $25 million offer sheet on Friday.

Fajardo victorious in 10-ball tourney

It was Luis Fajardo's turn to shine in the First 10-Ball Tournament held last July 7 at Joe's Bar in Garapan.

The veteran cue artist brushed aside elimination round topnotcher Greg Guerrero's twice-to-beat advantage in the finals to win the weekly competition at the Garapan sports bar and watering hole.

Fajardo started the weekend tourney on the right foot, beating Chester Hamoy, 2-0. Brian Marc Nelvis and Nolan Cultura also succumbed to the eventual champion in the same score.

Guerrero, however, put an end to Fajardo's three straight wins by skunking him in the semifinals to earn the all-important twice-to-beat advantage in the championship round.

Prior to beating Fajardo, Guerrero edged Rene Batestil, 2-1. He also got the better of Fred Robiego and Eugene Borja, curiously with the same score he beat Batestil with.

Fajardo, meanwhile, took the harder route to the finals by repeating against Hamoy.

Hamoy actually ran eight straight balls before unfortunately missing on the 9-ball, giving Fajardo an opportunity to sink his handicap ball and the right to challenge Guerrero in the finals.

CONTRIBUTED PHOTO

Luis Fajardo, center, won the First 10-Ball Tournament held last July 7 at Joe's Bar in Garapan. He is shown here posing with runners-up Greg Guerrero, right, and Chester Hamoy.

In Game 1 of the finals, Fajardo played a defensive safety shot on the 7-ball by snookering the cue ball behind the 9-ball.

Guerrero fouled by not making a legal shot on the 7-ball. With ball in hand, Fajardo manage to run the remaining balls including the 10-ball for the win.

In the do-or-die Game 2, Guerrero missed a tough bank shot on the 8-ball leaving a long but makeable shot for Fajardo.

He went on to pocket the 8-ball, 9-ball, and 10-ball giving him the title of champion that night.

Fajardo took home $100 and Miller Lite products as spoils for his first place finish, while Guerrero and Hamoy settled for the $40 and $20 runner-up purses, respectively, along with Miller Lite products

A total of 16 players took part in the July 7 tourney. Aside from those already mentioned, others who participated were Chester Cuento, Juancho Mendoza, Victor S. Hocog, Taylor Watanabe, Rico Montano, Lito Escaleri, Marlon Bulaun, and Miko.

The double-elimination First 10-Ball Tournament is held every Saturday starting 9pm with sign-ups an hour earlier.

Aside from the Billiards Congress of America rules, a handicap system based on the shooting skill of the player is used. Entrance fee is $10. Joe's Bar is located in front of Fiesta Resort & Spa Saipan.

For more information or to reserve your seat for the tournament, call 233-5367. ***(Saipan Tribune)***

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670 Babes then held Check It Out to just one run in the final stand, despite giving up a triple to Keina Rogopes and two other hits.

Saipal 22, Manelos 13

Manelos had an early 3-2 lead from the first two innings spoiled by a five-run surge by Saipal in the third frame.

Two early errors set up a Greg Isakwa sacrifice fly and a three-run home run for Gloyd Martin, while Jordan Hayes bagged an RBI single.

Manelos pulled within a run, 6-7, in the bottom side thanks to a two-RBI single by Derrik Aughenbaugh and a solo blast from Pat Alepuyo. It then took the steering wheel, 8-7, in the fourth after a two-run homer by Derek Abraham.

Saipal countered with two runs in the fifth inning from a sacrifice fly by Elo Eli and an RBI base smash by Hayes, but Manelos reclaimed the lead, 11-9, in the bottom frame off five hits; Aughenbaugh bagged an RBI single and Alepuyo air-mailed a second long ball, this time for two runs.

Saipal then erupted in the sixth inning and cashed in on an eight-run string that took the air out its rival's sails.

The team cracked seven hits including a pair of three-run homers by Martin and Hayes as they amassed a 17-11 lead. Hector Effrain also drilled a two-RBI base knock in the mix.

Saipal then poured some salt in the wound in the seventh inning with another handful of runs off five hits.

Isakwa belted a two-run shot, however, most of the damage done to the Manelos' defense was self-inflicted.

The Manelos were held to a pair of solo blasts by Alepuyo and Niko Martin.

Natibu 15, Berdax 13

Berdax worked out an early 3-1 lead in the first inning off an early error and a two-run homer. Natibu's John Welson cranked a solo shot in the bottom frame.

Berdax remained at the helm, 7-4, after the second inning. An early error was capitalized by five hits, including a trio of RBI singles by Ton Manibusan, Kel Kapileo, and Vaughn Hofschneider. Natibu managed three runs in the bottom frame off a pair of home runs.

Berdax moved around one run in the third off an error, but Natibu tied the match at 8-all in the bottom frame with six hits, including a two-RBI. One run also scored off a fielder's choice.

Then after a quiet fourth inning, Natibu grinded out a slim 10-9 advantage in the fifth thanks to a double and a sacrifice fly. Berdax's Chad Atalig spanked a solo blast in the top portion.

The count shifted to 13-12 in favor of Natibu after six frames.

Early blunders in the field by Natibu enabled a two-RBI single by David Camacho in the top half, however Berdax committed some mistakes in the bottom side that complemented an RBI smash by Welson.

Berdax's Atalig belted a solo home run in the top of the seventh that briefly tied the match, but moments later Natibu dealt the final blow.

ANGELS

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St. Michael's 7, IP&E-Shell 5

Angels' T.J. Cruz busted a two-RBI single in the first inning, but the IP&E-Shell Fielders promptly answered with three runs in the bottom frame for a slim 3-2 edge out of the gate.

IP&E-Shell's Wens Namelo drove in Anthony Tenorio and made it home off an error, while teammate Marvin Ngeskebei singled on and also scored off some extra chucks around the diamond.

Angels' Nick Cruz later tied it at 3-all in the third inning with a base knock that scored T.J. Cruz, however IP&E-Shell capitalized on more defensive blunders in the fifth inning and went ahead, 5-3.

Three hits to start the inning enabled IP&E-Shell's Joe Basa and Tenorio to cross the plate thanks to a costly infield error; notably, IP&E-Shell's Elton Santos was relieved on the hump by Jimmy Brel in the fourth inning.

He did a good job keeping the rival squad at bay, but ended up being tapped after a leadoff walk in the eighth inning and was replaced by Brandon Santos, who was replaced by Shane Mendiola by the end of the frame.

Brandon Santos plunked two batters in a short stint on the mound.

Angels' Marvin Kaipat delivered the game-tying single with one out and league batting champ John Reyes obliged with another two-RBI single to right field for the lead.

IP&E-Shell was stuffed in the bottom frame and ended the game with a man on third base.

Angels pitcher Manny Cabrera went all nine rounds and gave up just one earned run off nine hits and a walk with seven strikeouts. The walk came in the ninth inning and he canned seven put outs and 10 on the ground.

Saipan Stevedore Yankees 11, Rep. Yumul-D-9ers 8

Saipan Stevedore Yankees established a 6-0 margin in the first two innings and held off a last-inning uprising to secure the win.

They bashed four hits, including a pair of RBI singles by Jon Salas and Greg Iskawa, for its first three runs and added another three in the second from a two-RBI triple by Ben Jones Jr. and an RBI base rip by David Camacho.

Yankees' Chris Camacho drove home Salas for another run in the fourth inning before the D-9ers finally hit the board in the top of the fifth. D-9ers' E.J. Tenorio doubled around B.J. Lizama, but the Yankees quickly countered with three runs in the bottom portion and pulled away, 10-1. Some errors complemented an RBI single by Jerome Delos Santos and a sacrifice fly by Iskawa.

Both teams traded runs in the seventh as D-9ers' Andave Camacho singled in Ton Castro in the top half, and Angels' Camacho scored Jones Jr.

The D-9ers mustered a run in the eighth and then managed a five-run gash in the ninth before the Angels put a lid on the match.

D-9ers bashed six hits at the end of regulation, including a two-RBI single by Castro, an RBI single from Camacho, a sacrifice fly by Lawrence Dikito, and an RBI base smash by Lizama.

Jones Jr. batted 3-for-5 with two RBIs, three runs, and three stolen bases. Salas went 3-for-3 with an RBI and two runs.

18U

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outside the cutoff date.

The Division of Youth Services is teaming up with the SMLBA to put on the league, which is scheduled to kick off on Aug. 3 at the Francisco "Tan Ko" Palacios Ballfield.

Between six and eight teams are expected to suit up for the competition and five teams have already showed early interest in participating.

Parents are urged to accompany their children to registration along with birth certification and health insurance documents to the registration.

Also today, the SML's first youth baseball clinic is set to take place and will continue next week leading up to opening day.

The purpose of the youth clinic is to prepare the players for the tournament and help cultivate a competitive start out of the gate.

The SML wants to send out a big thanks to DYS for helping make the program possible.

For more information, contact SML's sports and development officer Tony Rogolifoi at 788-3966 or Patrick Tenorio at 483-6764.

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during which Woods won six of the previous 15.

What few can agree on is whether it's harder or easier to win one of the marquee events since Tiger went into the tank.

"You can argue it both ways," rising star Rickie Fowler said, splitting the fairway with his answer. "I think it's fun going into the week knowing that there's a full field of guys and almost anyone can win. We're not saying, 'OK, there's a 50 percent chance or so that this guy is going to win this week, we'll try to give him a run and if not, we'll play for second.'

"As a player," he added, "it's a lot more fun playing against a handful of guys for a championship vs. trying to beat down one guy."

There's no point asking that "one guy" whether golf is more fun these days, nor debating whether the game is better off with the Woods dynasty less dominant. Hard-core fans might find the variety more interesting, but the TV networks and sponsors would argue otherwise, citing how much Woods moves the meter.

As proof, Woods began the opening round with the largest gallery and then, like the Pied Piper, kept collecting followers with a birdie at No. 1 and three more in a four-hole stretch starting at No. 4. But instead of wilting, a collection of well-worn rivals and fresh faces put in a bid for attention with some fireworks of their own.

Aussie Adam Scott wrested the outright lead from Woods by getting to 5-under, then 7-under, eventually settling for a 64. Two other major winners, Paul Lawrie (British Open) and Zach Johnson (Masters) passed him with 65s. By the time Woods signed for a 67, he had plenty of company, including three-time major winner Ernie Els and more recent champions Graeme McDowell and Bubba Watson.

"As good a starting field as you've seen, maybe?" someone asked Woods.

"I only saw a couple of guys," he replied.

Woods pursuit of Jack Nicklaus' record 18 majors has stalled at 14, and no one bothered to ask whether he's worried that any of the names alongside his at Royal Lytham will get in the way this time. But he conceded earlier in the week: "More guys now have a chance to win major championships than ever before, and I think it will just continue to be that way."

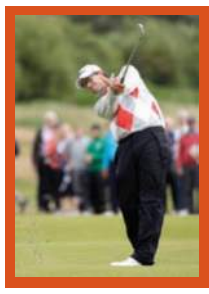
That's a far cry from how Colin Montgomerie used to describe the annual chase to divvy up the season's four biggest events: "Two for Tiger and one for Phil (Mickelson) Ernie or Vijay (Singh). That leaves one for the rest of us."

If it's harder than ever to dominate, Woods has only himself to blame. He started the game earlier than nearly all his predecessors, played more and trained harder. His quick success in regular tour events and majors convinced plenty of the kids who followed him into golf that there was no reason they couldn't jump the queue, too.

"That feeling of patience and the feeling of a tournament being like a marathon has gone away," said Padraig Harrington, whose back-to-back major wins at the 2008 British Open and PGA Championship wound up demarcating the so-far-Tiger-less era. "It tends to be a sprint from Thursday morning and if you're not 3-, 4-under par after nine holes, you feel like you're out of the tournament in a regular event. And I think what you're seeing is what's gradually seeping into the majors. ...

"But I do, I think we were spoiled with Tiger winning 14 majors in 15 years," he said. "People began to think that was predictable."

SPORTS
TSL
COMPLEX
Activity Schedule for Saturday, July 21, 2012
2012 Summer Futsal League
6:00 PM Women's Division Shirley's vs. Baked Girls
7:00 PM Men's Division Godfather's vs. Shirley's
8:00 PM Women's Division Xerox vs. Wild Bill's
SAIPAN
SOCCER SCHOOL



Walk in the park gives Scott lead at British Open

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Saipan Tribune

Sports

Athletics end Yankees home hoodoo, win 4-3

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670 Babes upset Check It Out, 4-2

By WALTER CEPEDA SUTHERLAND
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REPORTER

Third-ranked 670 Babes stunned second place Check It Out, 4-2, in Thursday's Chamolinian Softball Association 2nd Budweiser Softball League women's division playoffs held at the Capitol Hill Ballfield.

Check It out dropped to the lower bracket of the double-elimination tournament where they will be paired against fourth-ranked Enamo Meta at 8:30pm on Tuesday, while 670 Babes will square off against the winner of Monday's match between Frontrunner Sakudi and the fifth seed Rookies. The match is set for 7:30pm on Tuesday.

In the men's division, Saipal (No. 8) eliminated Manelos (No. 4), 22-13, in Thursday's lower bracket match, while a walk-off two-run homer by Natibu's Jerry Guerrero pushed his team past Berdax, 15-13, in the upper bracket duel.

Details of last night's matchups are forthcoming.

670 Babes 4, Check It Out 2

Check It Out missed some early scoring opportunities and ran out of time when they finally got their bats going late in the game.

670 Babes started a little slow at the plate until Tani Masga broke the ice in the third inning with a leadoff single. She snuck around the path off errors, while teammate Nicialynn Cabrera drew a walk and scored off a fielder's choice by Marlyn Naputi for a 2-0 lead.

670 Babes then caught Check It Out in a double play in the bottom frame, but the latter kept the game within reach trough the thick of the match.

Check It Out threatened in the fifth inning, but only came away with one run via a sacrifice fly by Connie San Nicolas.

670 Babes then grinded out two more runs in the top of the seventh inning from a double by Pauline Camacho who scored soon after off an error.

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670 Babes' Popo Tudela jumps up to catch a high throw to first base against Check It Out in their 2nd CSA Budweiser Softball League upper bracket playoff match held last Thursday at the Capitol Hill Ballfield.

WALTER CEPEDA SUTHERLAND

Angels overcome Fielders; Yankees maintain 1st place

By WALTER CEPEDA SUTHERLAND
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REPORTER

The St. Michael's Medical Response Angels sparked a four-run rally in the eighth inning to outlast IP&E-Shell Fielders, 7-5, in Thursday's Saipan Major League matchup at the Francisco "Tan Ko" Palacios Ballfield.

The win was St. Michael's sixth in 10 tries, while IP&E-Shell dipped on a tilt with five wins and six losses.

Meanwhile, back on Wednesday, the Saipan Stevedore Co. Yankees maintained its hold on the top spot after nosing out Rep. Yumul D-9ers (0-9), 11-8. It was the eighth win in nine games for the Yankees.

As for the rest of the field, the Tan Holdings Brewers (7-2) are in second place in front of the Aces (6-3), while the Rep. Sylvester Iguel Masters (1-8) are out of the running via forfeit rule.

The season continues at the Tan Ko field on Monday at 6:30pm with the Aces taking on the Yankees.

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St. Michael's Angels' Marvin Kaipat rears back for a swing in Thursday's SML matchup against the IP&E-Shell Fielders at the Francisco "Tan Ko" Palacios Ballfield.

WALTER CEPEDA SUTHERLAND

18U *Triple-A Championship registration set today*

By WALTER CEPEDA SUTHERLAND
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REPORTER

Registration for the Saipan Major League's 18U Triple-A Championship Summer Baseball League is ongoing today from 10am to 1pm at the pavilion behind the Gilbert C. Ada Gymnasium.

The league is open to players ages 15 to 18, meaning anyone turning 18 as of this year is eligible to participate. Players turning 19 this year are

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Rogolifoi

JIM LITKE
AP Sports Columnist

Jim Litke is a national sports columnist for The Associated Press.

More fun playing a handful than one guy

LYTHAM ST. ANNES, England (AP)—Just before noon, the name "Tiger Woods" popped up on the leaderboard at the British Open with a red "-4" alongside it.

Not long ago, that would have been a signal for everyone else to book the first flight home as soon as the tournament ended. They already knew who had reserved the best seat at the trophy presentation ceremony afterward.

On this Thursday, though, no one in the field at Royal Lytham was so much as tempted to reach into their bag for a cellphone. They all know that 15 different golfers—including nine first-timers—have won the last 15 majors. And that follows a run

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